

The Child--Who is Appropriate for the Robots4Autism Curriculum?

The Robots4Autism curriculum was designed for school-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to facilitate reciprocal interaction, shared understanding and emotions.

Prerequisite Skills for using the Robots4Autism curriculum

At a minimum, children using the Robots4Autism curriculum should:

- Use consistent means (i.e., words, pictures, conventional gestures) to request.
- Demonstrate the ability to understand spoken language and/or use picture symbol icons (they need NOT be vocal).
- Monitor their caregiver's actions.
- Make predictions about what is coming next in an interaction (i.e., engages in routines and turn taking activities).
- Comment on and respond to comments about pictures, objects, and events that are present and in their view (note that commenting is different than labeling, without regard to communication partner).
- Answer questions, particularly yes/no questions.
- Have the fine motor abilities for direct selection on the tablet that permits the child to respond to queries as he intends.

Children may be continuing to struggle with:

- Incorporating their language into discussions about past or future events where there is no discernable referent in the environment;
- Maintaining topics of conversation.

Introductory Lessons and Games

In order to confirm that the child has the above prerequisite skills and to establish rapport/familiarity with the robot, the child may complete the Introductory Lessons with the robot.

Completion of the Introductory Lessons and Games will offer the facilitator additional information on the appropriateness of fit for Robots4Autism to the individual child. Before initiating the Teaching Modules in the curriculum, the facilitator must be able to answer YES to the following questions (based on the Introductory Lessons):

1. Does the child relate positively to the robot?
2. Does the child understand how to use the tablet to communicate with the robot?
3. Does the child understand how to answer yes/no questions using the tablet?
4. Does the child have adequate picture symbol recognition ability to be able to respond to queries accurately?