

USE EASY TO UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE

Use specific and simple language as much as possible! Explain things very plainly. Children with autism have a hard time understanding common idioms and other figures of speech. Many think in images and so their primary language is made up of pictures, not words. It is important to say exactly what you mean and not use unclear instructions or comments.

DON'T SAY

INSTEAD SAY

Idioms & Cliches

You are the apple of my eye.	I love you.
I'm at the end of my rope.	I am angry.
You're playing with fire.	Use nice hands with the dog.

Nonspecific Instructions

Go put it away.	Put the toy in your room.
Don't do that.	Don't hit OR Keep your hands in your lap.
Let's get going.	Get in the car.

Inferences

Your room's a mess!	Put your toys on the shelves.
Your plate is still full.	Eat your carrots.
It's cold outside.	Put on your coat.

Verb Phrases

The car is acting up.	The car won't go.
Let's wrap this up.	Time to stop.
Hop to it.	Walk faster.

**** Do not use complicated sentences. Keep instructions short.**