Skill Sequence for Children with Autism and Other Moderate to Severe

Learning and Behavior Challenges

Learning Readiness Skills 1.

These are very basic skill elements needed to learn just about any knowledge/behavior. For example, the child:  
a. Responds to changes. For instance, turns to locate the source of sounds and movement; notices when persons enter, move around in, or leave a room. b. Makes spontaneous eye contact. c. Makes eye contact on request. d. Makes eye contact to get natural rewards.   
e. Behavior is reinforced/rewarded by some kinds of social contact.  
f. Uses “Quiet mouth.” and good sounds/words. g. Cooperates with  
simple requests: imitates; holds parent’s hand and comes along; follows; stops; comes when asked; responds to gestures; responds to verbal instructions. Learning Readiness 2 builds on Learning Readiness 1 skills.  
Chapters 11-14.

Learning Readiness Skills 2.  
 Comes to Teaching Area and Sits.  
a. Takes 2 steps in the same direction.   
b. Takes several steps in the same direction.   
c. Moves toward teaching area.   
d. Moves into teaching area.   
e. Touches chair or table.   
f. Sits or stands at table---“Shows ready” or “Sits big.”   
g. Begins learning basic skills of back-and-forth interaction with parent using toys and other objects.  
 h. Sits at table for increasing periods.  
Now your child is ready to learn with you. She pays and attention and responds (Learning Readiness 1) and now she’s *with* you.  
Chapter 15.

Learning Readiness Skills 3.  
a. Large motor skills: standing, bending, walking, throwing, kicking.  
b. Small Motor Skills: reaching, grasping, holding, lifting, placing, fitting.   
c. Play skills.  
We’ll work on these physical movements at the same time that we work on simple play with toys---Learning Readiness 4.  
Chapter 16.

Learning Readiness Skills 4.  
 Plays with Toys.  
a. Learns how to play with parent.   
b. Plays independently and with others. c. Plays for longer amounts of time.   
Chapter 17.

Next, we build on all of the above skills and teach your child everyday life skills in Learning Readiness 5.

Learning Readiness Skills 5. Life Skills.  
1. Cooperates with dressing.   
2. Cooperates with toileting.   
3. Cooperates with tooth brushing.   
4. Gets in and out of car.   
5 Cooperates with car seat buckling.  
6. Walks calmly with family members.   
7 Participates in shopping.  
These skills build on all the earlier Learning Readiness Skills, and prepare your child to learn and do the skills below.  
Chapter 18.

We work on the skills below in later books in the series.

Motor Imitation.  
1. Large Motor Movements. 2. Small Motor Movements. 3. Mouth Movements and Positions.  
This helps your child learn everything else.

Verbal Imitation.  
Sounds, words, phrases, sentences. As your child learns to say words and sentences, we teach her to USE them.

## 

Chores, Self-help, and Participation in Everyday Family Activities. We work on these skills from now on.

Functional Speech.  
Asking, answering, naming, describing. Your child will use language to learn and talk about  
what’s going on.

Replacing Problem Behaviors with Desirable Behavior. We work on this from now on.

We are always working on problem behaviors, which we started to do early when we replaced tug-of-war.