



12 Step Program to Decrease Toy Bag Dependence

1. **Functional Assessment:**
Identify materials and toys already available and likely to be engaging while visiting. Plan ahead to incorporate those materials/routines into next visit.
2. **Using Existing Social and Daily Routines:**
Join careprovider and child in activities occurring throughout the household/center when you arrive.
3. **Futures Planning:**
Plan activities/routines for your next visit before leaving. Joint identification supports problem solving, partnerships, and allows selective choice of any necessary materials.
4. **Community Based Training:**
Plan a special activity with careprovider - a trip to the park, a walk around the block, gardening, making pudding.
5. **Peer Mediation:**
Organize a play date with other children and careproviders.
6. **Milieu Strategies:**
With permission of family, ask the child to show or get toys or preferred objects in bedroom, toy room, or another area of the house where child's things are and routines occur. Follow child's lead and move into other areas.
7. **Fading Strategy:**
Decrease the size of bag. Choose 1 to 2 toys that support acquisition or generalization of specific outcomes to include in the bag for the visit.
8. **Systematic Desensitization:**
Leave toy bag by the door. Join the child's activities. Use the toy bag only when and if needed. (The next step is to leave the bag outside and then in trunk or under seat in car.)
9. **Hybrid Approaches:**
 - **Forgetfulness:** Walk in empty handed. Tell child, "I forgot. What should we do? What do we need?"
 - **Choice Making:** Put common household objects in toy bag. Ask child (careprovider), "Isn't this like yours? Should we use yours or mine? Show me how you do it?"
 - **Sabotage:** If child really likes toy bag approach, take in an empty bag and fill it with child preferred objects of interest/toys.
10. **Generalization:**
Demonstrate use of a toy that includes opportunities to practice a skill such as putting objects in small spaces (e.g. putting pieces into Mr. Potato Head). Then look around the home for other materials that could provide additional practice for the same skill.
11. **The Health and Well Being Approach:**
Despite your program's best efforts to sanitize toys, sharing toys among families is just not in the best interest of the child and family's health and well being!
12. **Required Justification:**
Mandate written justification for why particular toys and materials realistically fit into a family's life/routines.