

**Attention Questions**

**FIU** Center for Applied Behavior Analysis

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**Attention**

- Operational Definition:
  - The child demonstrates that he or she has been paying attention to the ongoing activity by being able to answer correctly within five seconds a staff member's question about the ongoing activity.
- Notes
  - Multiple parts
  - Negative behavior
  - Takes precedence over Contributing
  - Reasonable and appropriate effort

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**Attention Questions**

- Purpose
  - To teach skills and concepts
  - To prompt attention
  - To assess attention systematically
- Two types of questions
  - Standardized Attention Questions
  - Nonstandardized Attention Questions

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**Standardized Attention Questions**

- Assess children's response to behavioral and medication treatments
- Same number of questions every day at the appropriate difficulty level for the child
- Adjust difficulty level as children progress

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**Standardized Attention Questions**

- Content
  - Must be the correct question for the child
    - Correct level (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced)
    - Correct wording
- Activity
  - Designated Game/Other Game
    - Group Discussion
    - Game Awareness
- Number (frequency)
  - 1 Group Discussion question (preactivity or postactivity discussion)
  - 1 Game Awareness question in Intervals 2, 3 & 4

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**Sport Leader Attention Card**

Group: 6 Day: 14						
Name	Level	GD	Level	GA1	GA2	GA3
Robert	Int.	+	Int.	+	0	+
John	Int.	0	Basic	+	+	+
Jerry	Adv.	+	Int.	+	+	0
James	Basic	+	Basic	0	+	+

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### Standardized Group Discussion Questions

- Ask questions about task-related statements made by children during the discussion.
- Use the exact wording written in the manual—Do not rephrase questions (e.g., “What was the last thing said and who said it?” or “What were the last 2 things that happened in the discussion?”)
- Do not ask questions following negative child behaviors.
- Know the answer before you ask the question.

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Basic Level
  - Basic knowledge of game principles
  - Ability to **attend to the immediate action** of the game
- Intermediate Level
  - Knowledge of game rules and procedures
  - Ability to **apply knowledge in the context of the immediate action** of the game

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Advanced Level
  - Knowledge of complex game rules and procedures
  - Ability to apply strategy in the context of the immediate action of the game

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Memorize the attention questions.
- Use the exact wording written in the manual
  - Do not rephrase questions (e.g., "Why was a rule violation called?" not "Why did I blow the whistle?")
  - Ask all parts of questions (e.g., "What is the score and who is winning," "What team should get possession of the ball and why?")

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Ask questions before calling a play
  - Assess attention to the game, not Sport Leader's statement
  - Examples:
    - Ask "What is the score and who is winning?" right after a player scores a goal, before announcing the new score.
    - Don't ask "Why was a rule violation called?" after announcing that there was a hand ball in soccer.

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Ask questions at appropriate times
  - When play is stopped
  - When the game situation changes
  - Examples:
    - Do not ask a question while the child is running down the basketball court and should be watching the ball
    - Do not ask "What is the score and who is winning?" prior to the very first pitch in a softball game

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Ask when the answer is not readily apparent
  - Examples:
    - Do not ask "How should the ball be put into play?" when a player is standing on the side of the field, prepared for a throw-in
    - Do not ask "Who scored the the goal?" when people are congratulating the player who scored.

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### Standardized Game Awareness Questions

- Make sure Advanced questions are really Advanced
  - Specific, strategy-related answers, not stock answers such as "we should have scored"

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### Nonstandardized Attention Questions

- Content
  - Any question at the incorrect level for the child
  - Any question not on the question list
- Activity
  - Any question asked during a non-game period, regardless of content.
- Number (frequency)
  - Any question asked after the standardized question in a given interval

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**Nonstandardized Attention Questions**

- Assess and test children's game knowledge
- Ask children to repeat skill drill instructions to ensure that children understand the instructions
- Ask when teaching new skills and concepts
- Increase frequency for children who have difficulty attending and understanding
- Adjust frequency and content for individual children

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**Nonstandardized Attention Questions**

- Do not draw children off task during the activity
- Do not ask Nonstandardized questions in a manner that interferes with the Sport Leader
- Do not ask when a child has no difficulty attending to the activity or understanding concepts

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