

## From Strength to Strategy

Common Difficulty in Social Interaction	Associated Strength	Strategy
Difficulty with social interaction and understanding social cues	Excellent visual memory	Using pictures, cartoons, and social stories to teach social interaction and social cues
Difficulty initiating or sustaining conversation	Usually have very strong special interests	Use special interest topic or play to facilitate social engagement or parallel play
Common Difficulty in Communication	Associated Strength	Strategy
Delay or lack of development of spoken language	Strong problem solving skills	Language should be taught explicitly
Difficulty with comprehension	Strong memory	Language should be short and concrete, paired with gestures, modeling, and pictures
Stereotyped or repetitive use of language	Strong memory skills	Video/visual modeling
Common difficulty in Repetitive Behaviors	Associated Strength	Strategy
Intense preoccupation with special interest	Motivation, patience or determination	Use special interest to engage child in activity or conversation with others
Inflexible adherence to routines	Strong visual memory skills, thinks in pictures	Use visual aids to prompt a change in routine to build tolerance
Repetitive motor mannerisms	Strong motor skills related to interests	Use motor activities to build motivation and play with peers
Rule governed	Rule governed	Teach safety rules, teach flexibility
Common Difficulty with Problem Behavior	Associated Strength	Strategy
Demonstrating aggressive, self-injurious, or disruptive behavior	Communication!	Look at patters of behavior to see what child gets as a result of the behavior. Teach the child a better way to ask for what he/she is seeking