

## BACKWARD CHAINING AND MATCH

### Backward and forward chaining

Backward and forward chaining techniques are used to teach the child a task and to actively involve the child in the task. It involves breaking complicated activities into smaller steps. Visual prompts such as photographs and symbols can be used to help prompt the child at each step. The adult performs most of the task and the child performs the last step of the sequence to receive positive reinforcement for completing the task. Practice continues with the adult completing fewer steps and the child completing additional steps until the child is able to complete the whole task.

Backward chaining is particularly helpful for children with a low frustration tolerance or poor self-esteem because it gives immediate success.

### MATCH

Help children reach their full potential by making sure the task and the learning environment are right for them. The following “M.A.T.C.H.” strategy will help to match the activity to the child.

#### Modify the Task

This involves changing aspects of an activity that are too difficult for the child to perform. The important thing about modifying a task is that the child can still experience success if they make a genuine effort to participate in the activity. Can you use technology or tools eg visual timetables, to do lists, worksheets?

#### Alter your Expectations

Consider what the ultimate goal of an activity is and then think about where you can be flexible. Allowing extra time or alternate methods of completing a task can make the difference between a lesson learned and an experience of failure.

#### Teaching Strategies

Children with poor coordination have full capacity to learn with their peers, but may require a slightly different teaching approach. Investigate alternate teaching strategies designed for children with additional needs.

#### Change the Environment

Pay attention to what is going on around a child when he/she is experiencing success or difficulty (i.e. noise, level of activity, visual distractions, position in class). Minimise the environmental factors that make performance difficult for the child.

#### Help by Understanding

Understanding the nature of your child’s strengths and difficulties will help you to problem solve and provide them with rich learning experiences. If children feel supported and understood, they are more likely to attempt new activities and to persevere until they achieve success.

The CanChild website has more information and resources about this:

<https://canchild.ca/en/resources/123-m-a-t-c-h-flyers-a-resource-for-educators>