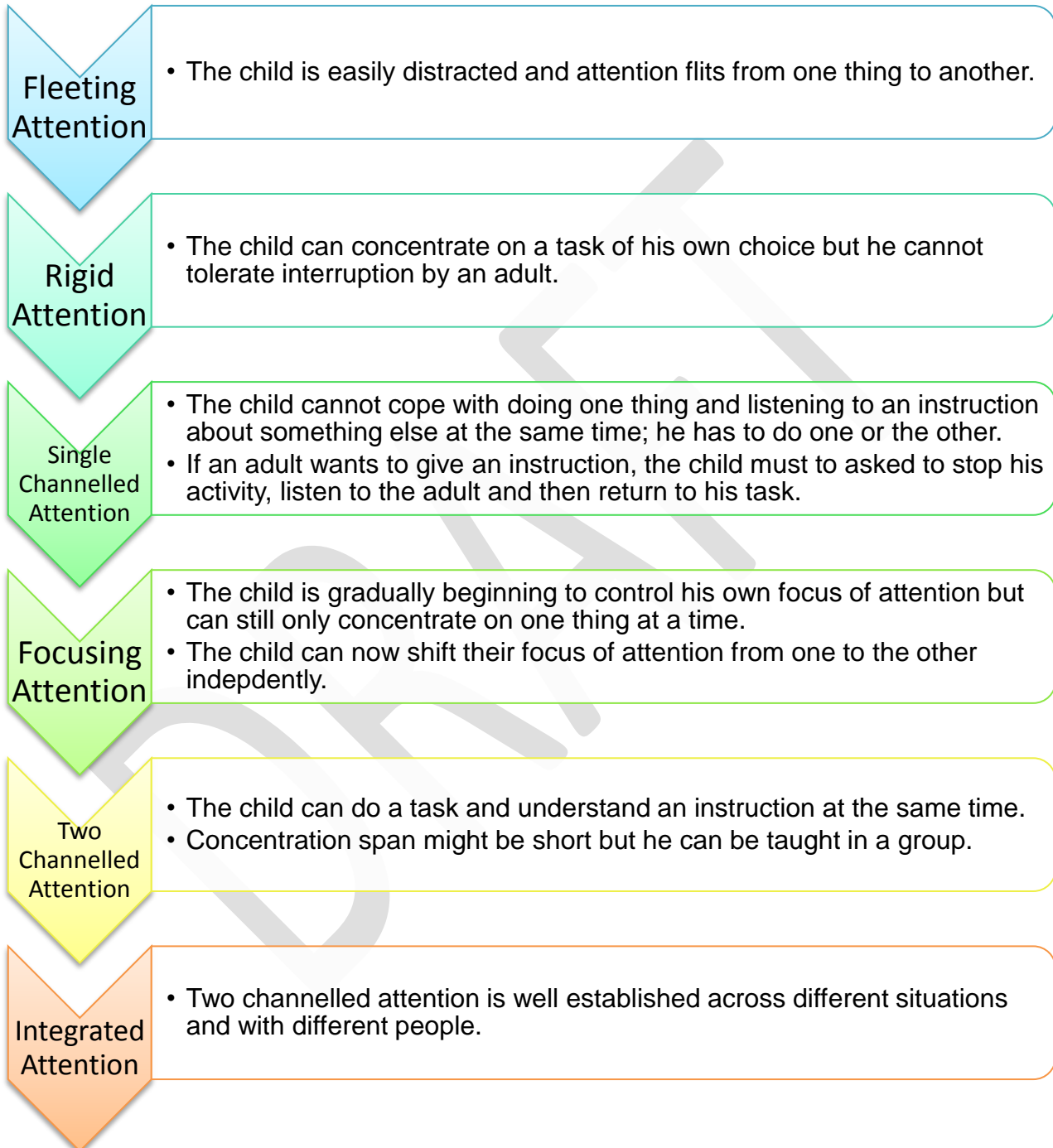


### Listening and Attention Skills

#### The Stages of Development

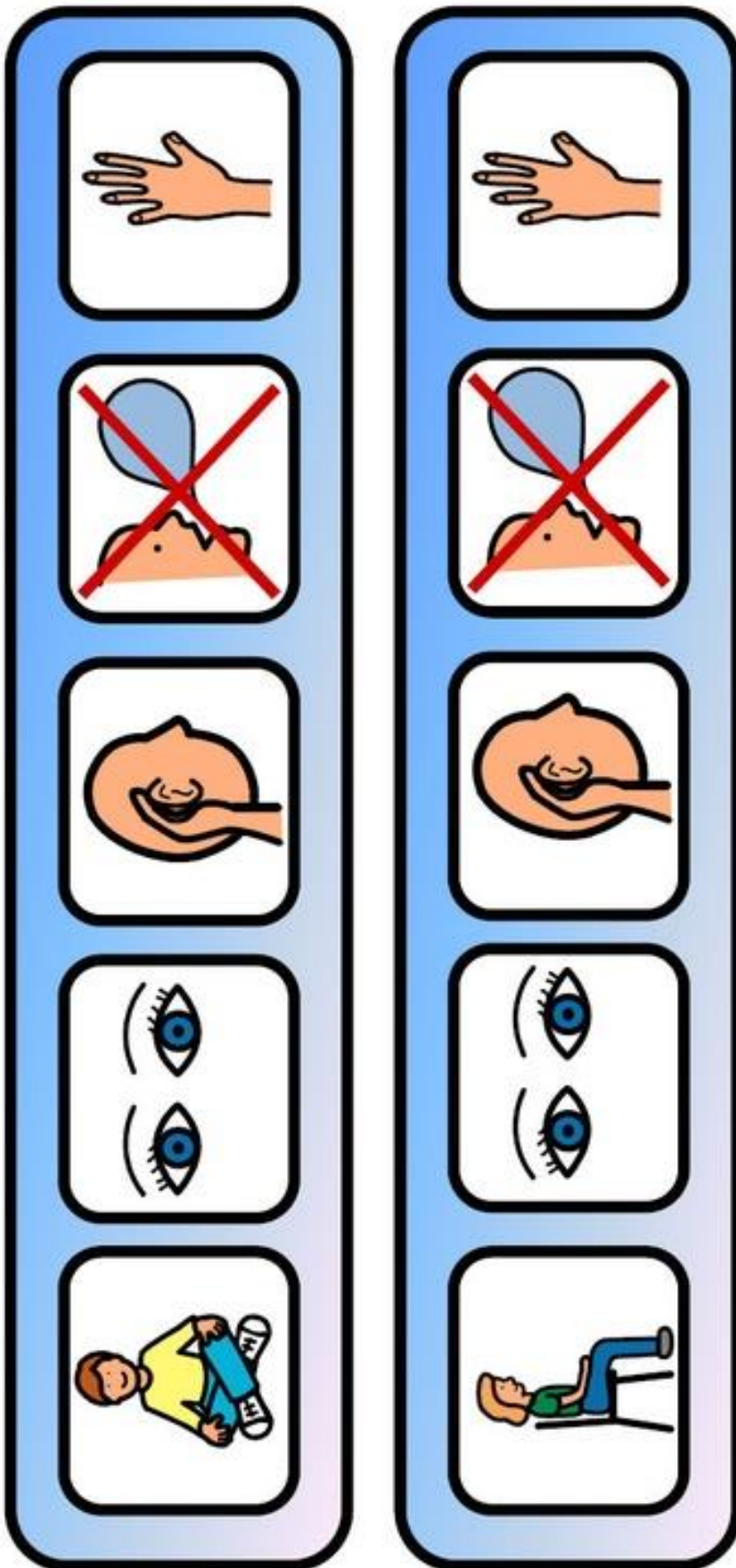


## Listening and Attention Skills

- Be aware of where a child is developmentally re: attention
- Do not assume that children know what 'good listening' is
- Teach good listening skills – use pictures and gestures to support
  - Good looking
  - Good sitting
  - Good waiting (turn taking)
  - Good listening
- Teach each aspect separately – be explicit in what you require
- Be consistent, reinforce aspects of 'good listening' – give specific praise
- Focus the children's attention before giving an instruction – use their name if possible
- If using a group name, make sure that all children know that they belong in that group
- Reduce background noise and distractions when possible
- Reduce level of language – use short, simple sentences
- Use non-verbal supports to help a child understand and maintain attention
- Use a visual timetable so you can be explicit about what comes next – make it time-bound – use a timer as a visual support. Refer to the timetable at every transition.
- Set a target with the child/children for how much work that child will do independently before needing teacher support
- Use a multi-sensory approach to maintain attention skills
- Teach active listening skills using barrier games

Soft start / whole class activities to develop attention:

Jigsaw puzzles	Fine motor tasks	Dot to dot	Steal the keys / bell
Find the odd-one-out	Spot the difference	Maze puzzles	Copy 'the teacher' (no spoken language)
Memory games	Categorising and sorting	Picture books	I went shopping and I bought . . .
Simon Says	Musical chairs/lions etc.	Learning songs and rhymes	



This resource includes good behaviour reminder strips for children and reminder cards for class display. Prompts are sit nicely, look, listen, no talking, put up your hand to answer. The large cards can be wall mounted or mounted on handles for the teacher to use at carpet time. The strips can be used around the classroom/on desks to reinforce the rules. Backed with blue, which is supposed to have a calming effect.