Communicate to Children with Special Needs: Autism Spectrum Disorder Case
Ahmed Elghadi, Ahmed Hijazy, Mohammed Aldrissi (1st Year Students – 2017/2018)

Introduction
Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects children’s communication abilities. Children with autism are slower to develop language, or have no language at all. They often do not understand that communication is a two-way process that uses eye contact. It’s a good idea to keep this in mind when helping them develop language skills. Some of them develop good speech but can still have trouble knowing how to use language to communicate with other people.

Breaking the Barriers with kids of Autism

1. Encourage play and social interaction:
Children learn through play that includes learning language. Interactive play provides enjoyable opportunities for a child with autism to communicate.

2. Leave “space” for child to talk:
It is so important to give a child with autism lots of opportunities to communicate, even if he is not talking.

3. Imitate child with autism:
Mimicking the child’s sounds and play behaviors will encourage a child with autism to communicate with others more.

4. Simplify language:
If a child with autism is not talking, try speaking to him mostly in single words. (Example: If he is playing with a ball, just say “ball” or “roll”.)

5. Focus on non-verbal communication:
Gestures and eye contact can build a foundation for language. Encourage a child with autism by modeling and responding to these behaviors.

6. Follow child’s interests:
Rather than interrupting a child’s focus, follow along with words. Using the one-up rule, narrate what the child is doing.

Conclusion
Autism is a disorder that affects children’s communication with others. It’s symptoms arise at childhood and continue until adulthood, and they don’t understand the whole process of communication, so they require special care and handling to help them develop their communication skills.

Reference