FIVE TIPS FOR USING DRAMA TO PLAY GAMES WITH CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

By Kelly Hunter, author of *Shakespeare’s Heartbeat*

**KEEP IT FUN**
The drama games should be short, fun and repeatable. Skills such as eye contact, facial expressiveness and language can be accessed through your playfulness.

**TAKE IT SLOW**
Go at their pace, not your own. Use the phrase 'take your time' as often as you like. Playing with a child on the spectrum offers them boundless opportunity to explore and embody sensations and feelings. If you rush, they may miss this opportunity.

**EVERYONE DESERVES TO PLAY**
No matter the diagnosis, every child and young person on the spectrum is still a child and all children deserve the chance to play.

**FEELING IS KEY**
As a result of playing, the children may have a range of fresh experiences: physical, emotional and spiritual. These new sensations and feelings can wake the children up to their own lives.

**THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK**
Read the child's needs. Speak in short sentences and never raise your voice.

www.routledge.com/978138016972