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Autism Observation

During my time at the autism clinic I observed many different things including the environment, the child who was getting helped and adult accommodations. The environment of the clinic was very inviting. There were mats set up around the room as well as different stations. There was a swing set up and a ramp with a scooter board for the child to sit on and roll down. Everything in the room was available to play with or child safe. Jackson was the child I observed. When he and his dad first arrived, he had a hard time listening. He didn’t want to do any of the activities that Josie had planned for him. He only wanted to swing on the swing. Some adult accommodations as a result of Jackson not listening was that Josie allowed Jackson to swing on the swing but she told him that he had to take turns with her and give her two pushes before he could have a turn. Then he had to count to 100 by 10s and then his turn was over. The boys father stayed the entire hour and talked him through some of the activities. Jackson did not want to dribble a ball so Josie allowed him to do another activity instead. He worked on throwing bean bags to his father. Josie gave him light beanbags at first and then gave him heavier ones. Jackson also worked on dribbling a ball in between two mats. He had a hard time staying in the designated areas at first. Jackson said he was scared of the scooter board but then Josie brought out bowling pins and he set them up and rolled down the ramp to knock them down. The session ended with Jackson riding his bike back to the car. In the article it explains that autism is a disorder that effects social interaction like eye contact, facial expressions and social gestures. I noticed in my observation that Jackson did not look Josie in the eyes when she was talking with him. He also turned the opposite way from her. The article also states that it may be difficult to have a conversation with a child with autism. They may also only want to talk about things that interest them and do activities that they like and not other ones. Jackson always wanted to pick the activity and started to get fussy when he had to do something that he didn’t want to do, like dribbling the ball. I learned from reading the article and observing that it is very important to continue working with autistic children. It takes someone who knows a lot about child development and who is very patient to work with these children. By working with these children multiple times a week, they will learn basic skills that their parents may not be able to teach them or have the time to work with them. I saw a lot of gross motor movement like throwing, swinging, dribbling and sliding. I learned that there is a sensory system when working with these children that includes visual, gustatory and olfactory, auditory, proprioception and vestibular.