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# LEARNING ACTIVITY

## Understanding the Increased Risk for Children with Disabilities

### Directions

- READ the story of Jacob, a boy who has a disability.

### Story

Jacob is a three year old boy who has autism. Jacob's strengths are that he can talk and he has a good attention span for activities that interest him. He is able to learn routines and uses "self talk" to remind him of what he needs to do next. He has a good memory and can often be heard repeating "scripts" and "magic words" his teachers have used with him.

Jacob likes music and playing on the computer. His favorite videos are *Arthur* and *Bob the Builder*. He enjoys spinning, swinging, and moving around.

Transitions and new situations are hard for Jacob, as they are for other children with autism. His teacher uses music and pictures to help him transition between activities. When stressed, Jacob cries and sometimes hits the side of his head with his fist.

Jacob's mom and dad hope that attending child care will help Jacob develop the skills he already has and increase his enjoyment of other children.

### Directions

- MATCH each strategy in Column A to its potential benefit in Column B. You may refer back to the *Preventing Child Abuse — Keeping a Balance* Module to help you complete this activity.
- COMPARE your answers with the Answer Key on the next page.

### Column A: Strategy

- (1) Predictable routines
- (2) High-interest activities
- (3) Scripts and "magic words"
- (4) Music and picture cues
- (5) Physical activity

### Column B: Benefit

- (a) Helps Jacob feel in control
- (b) Helps reduce Jacob's stress
- (c) Helps Jacob pay attention
- (d) Helps Jacob transition without a tantrum
- (e) Jacob uses these as reminders of what to do next