Let's Work Together!

Hi! I'm happy we are going to be working together to help me achieve my goals. Here are some ways you can make me feel comfortable so we can get off to a good start:

Always announce your presence and your movements about the room. I can't see you coming or going and it can be very scary to suddenly find myself sitting next to a stranger.

Use a soft voice. Even though it's important to announce yourself, you should do so in a soft voice that isn't loud and startling.

Let me "see" an object first. This is really important and often hard to remember. You'll be bringing out lots of neat toys for me to play with but I'll want to explore them thoroughly in my own way before I'm able to show you what I can do with them. Since I can't see the toy visually, I'll first need to touch, turn, and maybe even mouth the toy. This may take a little time, often several minutes. Please be patient.

Take your time. I know we only have an hour to play, but I move at a different pace since I need to use my other senses besides vision to process what's going on. Give me time to figure out what's happening, to decide to move on to something different, or to celebrate an accomplishment. We might get to fewer things in one session, but that's okay.

Take a break. Too much information and input can easily over stimulate me. Sometimes I just need to calm down and catch my breath.

Let me remain in control of my hands. Since I can't see, my hands often act as my eyes. It can be very uncomfortable for me to have my hands manipulated. If you want me to touch a toy, shake it or tap it so I know where it is or place it gently near my fingertips. If you want me to move my hands toward a toy a better approach may be to slowly guide my arm by the elbow rather than by the hands.

Remember that toys are toys. Even though that toy is shaped like a duck, it isn't a duck. It doesn't have feathers, it doesn't quack, and it isn't alive. Plastic or stuffed toys may represent real-life objects, but they are really only toys. If you can't see the representations, those connections are lost. Please refer to toys as toys so I don't become confused.

Some special considerations for me are…

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____