The Small-Wait Teaching Plan

Teach the next action and keep the adult promise.

Waiting practice needs an understandable sequence, suitable support, and an adult who follows through. Necessary care remains available.

Example: a parent finishes one sentence before hearing a question. The child uses an agreed signal. The parent then listens as promised, and they review whether the sequence and signal were clear.

01 Choose the situation

Match the task to the child's understanding.

Ordinary wait to practice

Child's understanding or support need

Necessary care to keep available

Small and suitable waiting boundary

02 Explain what comes next

Use a sequence the adult can honor.

What is happening now

What will happen next

Truthful words to explain the wait

Signal, visual cue, or support

The Small-Wait Teaching Plan / Review & follow-through

03 Teach and model

Give both child and adult a concrete duty.

Child's appropriate waiting action

How the child can ask for help

Adult behavior to model

Adult promise to keep

04 Review the attempt

Check the instruction before expanding it.

Behavior actually practiced

Whether the adult followed through

Difficulty or unclear instruction

Smaller step or support adjustment