

A suitable learning environment

- ✓ **Emotionally engaging:** Children learn best when they are emotionally engaged. You must create and maintain a positive and happy relationship with the child. Building a relationship means spending time with the child, responding promptly and positively, appreciating the child's efforts and praising. You may have to change the 'culture' – the way you and the family relate with the child - to build an engaging relationship with the child. The EmPOWER manual will help you in doing it.

- ✓ **Non-stressful:** children with autism and developmental disorders are easily stressed by sensory or other aspects of environments such as noise and bright lights. Their learning and behaviour improve when such stress is reduced. Complete the child's profile for guidance on how to make a Stress Reduction Plan for your child.

- ✓ **Motivating:** Children learn best when they do what interests them and they are active partners in activities. There is no point in forcing children do activities that they don't like – there will not be any meaningful learning. Instead, you must make the activity suit the child's interest. The activities must be done in a playful manner to encourage the child's participation. Involving the whole family in learning and using the method will help to create multiple interesting and variable opportunities.

