Let's Pretend to Be Farm Animals

Target age group: Preschool children with autism, all developmental levels

Objective: To expand pretend play skills

Materials needed:
- Hats or headbands suggesting different farm animals, one for each child
- Plastic farm animals to match costumes
- Pre-recorded examples of farm animal noises, one for each animal
- Opaque bucket or container

Instructional strategy:
1. Explain to children that today, they'll be pretending to be animals. For each animal you'll be using, hold up the representative plastic toy and discuss what that animal does and eats. Talk about how someone who was pretending to be that animal might act.
2. Play the pre-recorded noise for each animal while holding up the corresponding plastic animal as a visual aid.
3. Place all the plastic animals in an opaque bucket or container and have each child choose one animal.
4. Give each child the hat or headband that matches the animal chosen. Instruct children to pretend to be that animal, prompting as needed with the appropriate animal noise.

Accommodations:
- For children who have sensory concerns with the headband or hat, substitute a piece of fabric or scarf that is printed like the animal.
- Children may require help from a paraprofessional to move like the animal and make animal noises.
- If necessary, reward participation with a treat or favorite activity.