

Intensive Interaction

Intensive interaction - is a play-based approach to help children develop early, pre-speech communication and interaction skills.



- Giving and sharing attention
- Developing shared attention into activities
- Turn taking
- Eye contact and facial expressions
- Gesture and body language
- Vocalisations

Aims

- Enjoy being with other people
- The ability to attend to another person
- Concentration and attention span
- Sharing personal space
- Starting to use noises with meaning

Children may communicate with themselves through a variety of ways :-

- Touch - stroking, knocking objects, hitting themselves
- Rocking, spinning
- Making sounds - vocalizing, tapping objects
- Visual - flapping with fingers or spinning objects

The only equipment you need is a sensitive person to be the interaction partner.

Be **responsive** rather than **directive**.

The child should lead and direct with the interaction with the partner responding to and joining in with the behaviour.

Spend time in a quiet relaxed environment, observe and follow the child's lead. Reflect back their movements and sounds. If they make a movement, respond by copying the movement. If they make a sound, copy the sound.

Communicate

- Copy their body movements
- Echo back their vocalisations
- Copy their movements with an object
- Use music (like a drum) to beat in time to their movements.

Respond

- Imitation, joining-in, mirroring
- Delighted face, voice, body language
- Bursts of speech, running commentary

Repetition

- Familiarity
- Predictability
- Security
- Confidence

Copying and building confidence together

- Sharing personal space
- Short regular sessions
- Undivided attention
- Copy movements, vocalisations, facial expressions
- Follow the child's lead
- Reinforce action, noise, expression
- When they stop, you stop
- When they start, you start
- Don't copy actions you would rather not see
- Try to end all sessions on a positive note

