

Useful Links

For an examples on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/9FEOeG-9Zpo>

<https://youtu.be/UvIEwUbzF4c>

[Intensive Interaction - Fundamentals of Communication](#)



Gravesham Early Years Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

Joint Attention

Joint attention is the ability to focus on the same thing (object, person, event) with another person. This means that three parties are involved in joint attention, the child, the object of focus and another person.

Therefore in order for joint attention to happen, the child needs to be able to gain, maintain, and shift his attention.

Intensive Interactions



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Intensive Interaction.

This develops the fundamentals of communication. When you enter a child's world they can respond very positively using facial expressions and making eye contact, it can also encourage more vocalisations which can lead to speech development. It demonstrates taking turns and therefore supports the structure of conversation. It can help the child see the benefit of communicating and how fun it can be!

Intensive Interaction's can take place anytime and during any activity—it's all about taking the opportunities that the child offers you.

You need to be at eye level with the child or lower and opposite them so that they can see you directly.

You will need to copy actions, gestures and vocalisations exactly. The child is leading the session - you are entering their world. Do not add to anything. Keep going even if the child appears not to be taking any notice. not taking notice.



The aim is for the child to have a 'conversation' with you using either vocalisations or actions. Eventually after some perseverance there will also be pausing and eye

Remember The child is in control; you mirror what they do so that they lead the interaction.

When they realise this, they will

Understand that the interaction is completely predictable, nothing unexpected is going to happen and that they are leading it.

It can lead to turn taking, increased enjoyment of interactions and it can motivate the child to interact more because they enjoy it.

Gradually, the child will become increasingly interested in the adult and see them as an interesting play partner. Following a child's lead will increase a child's social interest and social engagement.

