

Intensive interaction

- Intensive interaction is an approach to teaching communication and interaction skills to **all children**
- We join in with our child, respond to them and help them to develop the 'fundamentals of communication'
- It is intense but fun

Intensive Interaction 'Techniques':

Sharing Personal Space: lying/sitting/standing together, quietly or otherwise, touching or apart.

Physical Contact: holding or squeezing or clapping hands together; hand-over-hand games; massaging or rubbing hands or feet; rhythmically stroking arms or shoulders; walking arm-in-arm; touching foreheads or rubbing noses.

Making Eye Contact: making dramatic glances; looking in the mirror; staring at each other.

Exchanging Facial Expressions: we use clear facial expressions to create opportunities for these to be responded to e.g. smiles, winks, pulling dramatised faces.

Vocal Echoing: Echoing some aspect of a person's vocalisations, (any sounds) can develop into conversation-like sequences e.g. echoing of a person's verbal or non-verbal vocalisations; echoing a person's breathing patterns; using dramatised or exaggerated intonation when echoing sounds.

Behavioural Mirroring: copying of a person's movements or some aspect of their physical activity; mirroring the sounds made by a person's physical activity.

Joint Focus Activity: jointly exploring objects, books, photographs, or magazines either visually or physically; moving objects through a person's field of vision or hearing; reading to a person; actively listening to music together.

Joint Action: physically exploring objects together, playing "tug-o-war" with an object; doing a "row-row-row your boat" type activity together.

Burst-Pause Sequences: this is when an action is intentionally preceded by a deliberately extended pause, thus building anticipation and expectancy and prompting some response e.g. hide-and-appear games; playing 'catch' with a „1-2-3" or" ready-steady-go' countdown; noise escalation games that build gradually then abruptly go quiet.

Turn Taking: where both individuals share a turn taking exchange, in whatever form it might take, and are aware of their role and their turn; e.g. actions, clapping, passing things to and fro, etc.

Intensive interaction

Using 'Running Commentaries': using limited language with a person to describe their activity "wow, great, yeah...", "here he comes now...", "I can see you looking...", "from me to you...".

Useful websites

<http://usinabus.org.uk/sharing-our-practice-2/sharing-our-practice/top-tips-for-practicing-intensive-interaction/>

<http://thecaldwellautismfoundation.org.uk/index.php/responsive-communication-the-films/>

<https://www.intensiveinteraction.org/>