

Intensive Interaction

What is Intensive Interaction?

Some children with severe communication difficulties find it hard to engage with others, even their close family members. They may prefer to play alone or have restricted and repetitive play skills. The term 'Intensive Interaction' describes a way in which we work with children to develop their basic play and interaction skills.

These skills are the important building blocks of language development.

Playing can be more successful when the child is allowed to lead the play – what they want to play with and how they want to play with it.

Don't expect the child to cooperate with your ideas, as directing their play can result in the child withdrawing further, making it even more difficult to engage with them.

What should I do?

Allow some 'Playing Time' with my child:

- ⇒ Try to be as relaxed and as natural as possible
 - ⇒ Be face to face with your child
- ⇒ Join your child wherever they choose to play, not necessarily where you think is best
 - ⇒ Show an interest in what they are playing with
 - ⇒ Keep your language simple
 - ⇒ Copy what your child is doing
 - ⇒ Imitate the sounds your child makes
- ⇒ Pause frequently to allow yourself time to watch your child

What am I aiming for?

- For you and your child to enjoy playing together
- To feel you are beginning to engage more successfully with your child
- To extend the range and quality of play/activities that your child will take part in

Remember! This is new to you as well as your child. Don't worry if it feels difficult at first, it may take some time for you both to feel comfortable and at ease. Celebrate your successes, however small .