

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Communication is....

- Enjoying being with another person
- Being able to focus on that person
- Having concentration and attention skills
- Doing sequences of activity with the other person
- Taking turns with that person
- Sharing personal space
- Using and understanding eye contact
- Using and understanding facial expression
- Using and understanding physical contact
- Using and understanding non-verbal communication
- Using sounds with meaning

From Hewett D, Intensive Interaction workshop

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Intensive Interaction.....How to Do It

Find some time each day to do intensive interaction – but also try to use the strategies when you can with your child

Try to reduce other distractions around you and reduce too many objects if you can. It's about learning to spend time with a person.

- **Respond:** to what your child does by
 - copying/joining in (actions/sounds)
 - using your face, voice, body language
 - talk about what your child is doing
- **Wait:**
 - watch for your child's sounds/ noises or actions
 - copy them
- **Repeat:** activities, actions, words
 - your child will love this
 - it shows them something they know well
 - they will feel safe
- **Let your child lead:**
 - follow what they want to do
- **Enjoy** the interaction
- **Remember**, this may take a long time

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Intensive Interaction

What is it?

Intensive Interaction helps children and adults to develop interaction. It can be used with:

- People who have problems communicating
- People who find interacting with others difficult
- People with specific a specific diagnosis such as autism or learning difficulty

We use it at school to help communication and relationships with the child, school staff and class mates.

What about Parents?

It helps at home too. Ask the speech and language therapist about this.

Lots of people use 'Intensive Interaction' approaches without realising. It uses natural communication between parents and children.

It helps when we people know how your child communicates at home. It is good to know the games and activities they like to do. They might like tickles, songs or making funny faces with you.

How will this help my child?

Intensive interaction helps children because:

- They are **happier** to be with other people
- They have **better relationships** with staff and class mates.
- They take part more in class activities, giving **more time for learning**.
- They develop **communication skills**, like eye contact, using gestures, taking turns and using voices.
- It helps **wellbeing** and can help to reduce **stress**

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Intensive Interaction Levels

Encounter:

Child is in an interaction but may not be aware of it.
For example: they will accept being near you

Awareness:

Child is noticing the interaction. This could be an object or person.
For example: they may stop what they are doing (making sounds or actions) and look at you

Attention and Response:

Child starts to respond in an interaction. They do not do this all the time yet.
For example: they show signs of surprise, enjoyment or frustration

Engagement:

Child can keep their attention in an interaction.
For example: they follow actions with their eyes, head or body parts

Participation:

Child will take turns in an interaction
For example: they take turns making noises with an adult

Involvement:

Child starts interactions.
They also copy and take turns with adults.
For example: they make the same gesture to start a game

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Intensive Interaction Session Sheet

Child's Name:			Date:		
Adult's name					
What happened:					
Encounter	Awareness	Attention & Response	Engagement	Participation	Involvement
What did the child do:					
What did you do:					
Briefly comment on what you did (what worked/did not work)					
Anything to try next time?:					