

Intensive Interaction

Early Years Team

Aims of Intensive Interaction.

- Enjoying being with another person.
- Developing the ability to attend to that person.
- Concentration and attention span.
- Sharing personal space and giving and receiving touch.
- Using and understanding eye contact.
- Using and understanding facial expression.
- Using and understanding body language.
- Taking turns in exchanges in behaviours.
- Starting to use noises with meaning.



These are the skills that are normally learnt during the first year of life, through very natural, playful interactions with parents/carers in which the carer is flexible and respond to things that the child does. This in turn results in the infant being encouraged to do more. Intensive Interaction is therefore based on early parent-child interaction sequences. It requires minimal resources, and the interaction sequences are characteristically brief-five minutes is a long one.



So how is it done?

- Responsiveness-follow their behaviour, be constantly responsive, celebrate and extend.
- Quality one to one time.
- Scan person constantly-“tune into” them, constantly looking for signals and feedback.
- Sometimes offer stimuli.
- Use initiation.
- Be particularly responsive to sound.
- Intentionality-respond to behaviour meaningfully.
- No force, dominance or compulsion.
- Powerful general trend to be positive.
- No particular task.
- Not directive.
- Relaxed informal atmosphere.
- Easy tempo.
- Allow and use of pauses.
- Use burst-pause sequence.
- On child’s level-join them in their world.
- Use gentle running commentary (being careful not to bombard)
- Face/voice/body modifications.
- Allow child control.
- “get face in the right place”
- Have fun!

By doing this the child is learning:

- To have fun.
- Turn taking.
- To initiate.
- Facial expressions.
- Use of touch and proximity.
- Co-operating with another person.
- To read non-verbal signals and cues.
- “My choices have meaning”.
- To choose.
- Cause and effect.
- I can be powerful (and affect what is going on around me)
- Being with another person is good.
- Trust.
- My behaviours are important.



Intensive Interaction Videos on YouTube

There are now several different Intensive Interaction clips on YouTube:



Here are a couple for you to watch.....

The link/ clip below shows Dave Hewett being interviewed* on the basics of Intensive Interaction <https://youtu.be/rjKxu6QKjAo>

The link/ clip below shows Phoebe Cordwell demonstrating* Intensive Interaction <https://youtu.be/7k-1FwTBtlc>

** Please note that although the video clip mentions Autism, Intensive Interaction is a very useful technique for children who have Social Communications Difficulties.*