

How to...

...do Intensive Interaction

The core principles:

- Providing focused quality 1:1 time in a variety of settings (classroom, park, home) at any time of the day.
- Find a quiet space with fewer distractions.
- Watch and observe behaviours and signals from the child.
- Be responsive and build on the content and flow of the child.



The key responses are:

Respond

- Copy the child, using positive and engaging facial expressions and body language to make it fun
- Add simple language and watch what the child is doing, what they are interested in, etc...

Pauses

- Ensure the activity includes a lot of pauses - by doing this you are allowing the child to take a turn and notice that for communication to be fun, both of you need to join in.

Repeat

- Children need multiple repetitions to make progress by giving familiarity, predictability and a sense of control and structure.

Other Tips

- Be aware of signals that the child uses to indicate they want some space from interacting with you, or are becoming too aroused or excited in the interaction and need help to calm down.