

Intensive interaction

What is it?

- A way of helping a child learn how to interact with others.
- The adult communicates with the child at the child's level of communication.

Why use it?

It should help the child:

- Enjoy being with other people
- Learn to attend to other people
- Develop their attention span
- Learn to share personal space
- Learn to understand and use eye contact
- Learn to understand and use facial expression
- Learn to take turns

How to do it:

- Position yourself at the child's level and try and stay face-to-face with them.
- Wait and observe what the child does and listen to the sounds they are making and any words they may be saying.
- Follow the child's lead by responding to their sounds and actions as if you are having a conversation, but a conversation made up of sounds, actions or words depending on what the child has just used. For example, if the child says "ee-ahh" you could say the same sounds but in a slightly different way such as "eeeeee-ahhhhhh" (i.e. making the sounds longer). By changing the sound/action in a small way you may attract their attention.
- Pause and wait during the 'conversation' so that you give the child a chance to re-start the 'conversation'.

If you would like to see some examples of adults using Intensive Interaction with different children there are a number of videos on the internet. You will need to go to the 'You Tube' website and then type in 'intensive interaction'.

Alternatively, here is a link to the **official Intensive Interaction website**, which has more information, and some more video examples of Intensive Interaction: <https://www.intensiveinteraction.org/>