

## Intensive Interaction

Interaction is a vital part of communication. In order for communication to work, it needs to be a two-way process, but for some children interaction is difficult. First, they need to learn cause and effect through their communication attempts e.g., they do something and they get a response.

The strategy is designed to help children who are in the early stages of developing communication and social skills. It is about watching closely how a child responds to different situations through their body language, voice and facial expressions – and responding to this.

It is a fun approach, which follows the lead of the child.

### What do I need to do?

- Tune-in and be available
- Changing my voice, gaze or body language
- Treat all actions/ sounds as communication
- Respond quickly to any feedback from the child and interpret
- Use timing and rhythm within the interactions
- Be relaxed and take time to enjoy sharing this space with your child



### Play ideas and Toys

- Play tickle games with loud with loud noises and see if the child anticipates the tickle.
- Blow raspberries on their cheeks, clap their hands and rub their hair.
- Place toys listed below around the floor and let the child explore, when something has their attention join in by copying what the child is doing.

Toys like **water mats**, **instruments**, **shiny objects**, **wind up**, **pop up** and **light up** are all highly motivating for the child.

For further ideas check out the videos below.



### How?

**Copy the sounds, movements and faces I am making.**

**If you see me playing alone, join in and play with me.**

### Putting it into practise

- Choose a time to play without distraction
- Find an appropriate space to play
- Join in by copying sounds, movements or facial expressions the child makes
- If your child shows no interest in the toys make yourself exciting
- Continue to play until the child signals that they have had enough

### ➔ Moving forward...

When you feel you are confident with this strategy, next, try introducing **People games**. A great place to start is by signing action rhymes, such as, **Row row row your boat** and **Round and round the garden**.