

Intensive Interaction

Intensive interaction involves copying what your child does. This helps to develop your child's ability to concentrate on another person, take turns with another person and enjoy being with another person. These are all things they need to do to develop their ability to communicate.

What to do:

- Sit down with your child
- Ideally you want to be facing them so you can see their face clearly
- Wait for your child to do something and copy it
- You may need to wait for a while for your child to respond or to do something else for you to copy
- Once they notice that you are copying them. Many children will respond by looking at you, smiling, making eye contact, vocalising or doing the action again!
- Once your child has noticed or is deliberately repeating actions for you to copy, you could try doing an action to see if your child copies you

What you can copy in intensive interaction:

- Noises your child makes
- Movements your child makes e.g. shaking head from side to side
- Actions your child makes e.g. banging on the table
- Facial expressions your child makes e.g. smiling, opening mouth wide
- Actions your child does with a toy e.g. shaking a musical instrument

If your child has visual impairment, you can still do intensive interaction. You should copy what your child does but make sure you place your hand on top of theirs or copy their movements on their body (e.g. if your child touches their head, you can touch their head too, if they touch the floor, touch the floor but place your hand on top of theirs).



You can find more information about intensive interaction here:

<https://www.intensiveinteraction.org/find-out-more/about-intensive-interaction/how-does-it-work/>

You can watch videos of intensive interaction here:

<https://www.intensiveinteraction.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7k-1FwTBtlc>