

# Intensive Interaction

Intensive Interaction is an approach to help people at the early levels of development learn the 'Fundamentals of Communication'

## Why Intensive Interaction?

Intensive Interaction is not something we do to our partner, **it is a way of being with them.** We need to convey to them that we value what they do, the language they are using to talk to themselves and, by implication, who they are. An element of surprise that keeps the process open ended.

The practitioner has the role of scaffolding the experience so that it is safe by being familiar, but stimulating in that it extends the child's skills of communication and increased their level of sociability.

There is no task or outcome focus; the primary concern is for the quality of the interaction itself.

## How do I get started?

- Observe the child on their own and with others
- What do they like?
- What do they not like?
- How do they spend most of their time?
- How do they react to other people?
- How do they communicate (or attempt to communicate) – remember non-verbal cues?
- What do they do that you could respond to or join in with during interactions?



## Basic Techniques – beginning the interactions

- Tuning-in
- Enjoyment
- Holding back, observing and waiting
- Allowing the child to take the lead or 'go first'
- Responding in a variety of ways
- Being relaxed and unhurried
- Pausing
- Timing responses
- Positioning and available look

**The interaction must stop when the person has had enough.**

## What can I do next - extending the interactions?

- Altering the timing, pitch or shape of a sound- changing the rhythm or introducing suspense.
- Altering the mode- beating the rhythm of a person's rocking on the arm of a chair or making a sound/ word.
- Bringing in a discontinuity in expectation
- We can bring in different but related materials
- We can leave out something the brain is expecting
- We need to be creative in the context of what has significance for our partners brain

