

Implementing Intensive Interaction

1. Firstly, you need to choose a child that you think will benefit from the use of Intensive Interaction.
2. Then you should work with them on a one-to-one basis, interacting in a way that comes naturally to you both. This is important because you should then be able to notice the difference in the way they interact when you introduce the techniques of Intensive Interaction. Although, sometimes we sub-consciously use some imitation in the way we interact naturally. This will also give you a chance to get to know each other better and they will gradually learn to trust you and feel comfortable with your presence.
3. After several sessions of "normal" interaction, which should give you a good idea of how they usually interact, you should then try using Intensive Interaction.
4. Intensive Interaction is an approach based on imitation. Therefore in order to get the best results you should copy ALL of their actions, movements and vocalisations.
5. When implementing Intensive Interaction you should look for basic responses which are easily observable e.g. increased eye contact, looking at/towards your face, making contact through the use of touch, increased number of vocalisations, increased engagement and responsiveness.
6. After each session of using Intensive Interaction, you should hope to observe more and more of these basic responses, for example, prolonged eye contact or an increased number of vocalisations.
7. These responses may be basic but they are VERY important as they show signs of development.
8. Some children may begin to imitate your actions and vocalisations back to you; they may even make it into a game. This shows their understanding, despite the fact they may not be able to communicate with you through the use of speech.
9. By using Intensive Interaction, you are encouraging their development, for example, if they use an increased number of vocalisations then this will eventually lead to a development in their speech. Or if they have an increased engagement then you should be able to get them to do other activities which will be beneficial to their development, e.g. walking.
10. It is important to use Intensive Interaction on a regular basis because the more you do; the more likely they are to develop either socially, physically or communicatively.