



What is Intensive Interaction?

Introduction

Intensive Interaction is an approach designed to help people at early levels of development to learn how to enjoy being with other people, to relate, interact and begin to know and understand communication routines. Developed from research into how human beings learn to communicate in the first years of their life, it is designed to enable people at early stages of development to learn the FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION.

Fundamentals of Communication

The Fundamentals of Communication are elements of pre-speech communication. They are the first learning in usual development and underpin all subsequent learning. They include things like:

- Learning to share attention with another person
- Developing that shared attention to other activities
- Taking turns in exchanges
- Understanding and using eye contacts
- Understand and using facial expression and body language
- Learning use and understanding of physical contact
- Learning use and understanding of vocalisations

How does it work? What do you do?

Relaxed and enjoyable interactions are gradually developed, through which the Fundamentals of Communication are rehearsed and learnt in a free flowing way. Interactions are led by the learner and the 'teacher' is non-directive, and responsive. Interactions are frequently repeated and gradually, over time, grow in complexity and sophistication. The 'teacher' builds the content and flow of the interaction by basically allowing the learner to lead the interaction, by tuning in to them and sensitively responding. Interactions should be playful, relaxed and mutually enjoyable for both partners.

www.intensiveinteraction.org

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