

## Intensive Interaction

Intensive Interaction is an approach developed by Dave Hewitt and Melanie Nind. It is an approach that supports people's social communication development. Research has shown that it can be included in everyday interactions and used alongside children with social communication needs to encourage & develop two-way social communication.

It focuses on the fundamentals of communication as a means of establishing social communication.

These fundamentals of communication are the social communication capabilities of:

- developing the ability to attend to another person
- using and understanding eye contacts and facial expressions
- learning to share personal space
- using and understanding sociable physical contacts
- using vocalisations with meaning (for some, speech development)
- taking turns in exchanges of behaviour, and/or sequencing a social exchange with another person
- enjoying being with another person.

You may notice that these fundamentals of communication are very similar to the roots of the [communication tree](#) and this is why we advocate for Intensive Interaction to be used in Reading to support children with social communication needs and those that are preverbal as they are working on developing their fundamentals of communication.

The primary focus of Intensive Interaction is that the child or person who is receiving Intensive Interaction is able to set the pace of interaction and take the lead. This ensures that it is child-led and safe for our children to feel they can engage with this and make progress with their social communication skills.

You can find out more about Intensive Interaction and watch some videos about the techniques here: [Intensive Interaction - Fundamentals of Communication](#).

In Reading we are currently training professionals in early years settings, schools, children's centres, and the portage service to be able to use Intensive Interaction with children they work with and model this to parents. We will also be running some parenting workshops.

For further information on Intensive Interaction in Reading please contact early years on [early.years@brigherfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:early.years@brigherfuturesforchildren.org)