**Intensive interaction – What is it about?** 

Intensive interaction for learners who are still learning the foundational skills needed to become effective learners.

**They haven’t yet worked out the power of communication for them**

Intensive interaction teaches learners how to:

* Enjoy being with another person
* Interact with another person
* Play with another person

Intensive interaction teaches learners how to:

* Share personal space

Intensive interaction teaches learners that:

* Communication works by exchanges going back and forth
* Eye contact has an important role to play when communicating with someone else
* Gestures can be used to support communication

Intensive interaction requires you to:

* Tune into the child
* Notice what they’re interested in
* Tune into these in a supportive way

Intensive interaction is important because:

* It gives children a ‘space’ to lead
* Helps children figure out that they can communicate their communication interests
* Shows children that people around them will respond to their attempts to communicate

Intensive interaction is not about:

* Making suggestions for the child
* Simply copying someone

Intensive interaction is about:

* Allowing the child to figure out what they’re interested in and show this to the adult
* Acknowledging someone and what they’re doing and responding to this in such a way as to say ‘I see you, I’m interested in you, let’s figure this out together’.
* Being open
* Being engaged
* Being intentional in the way the adult and learner respond to each other