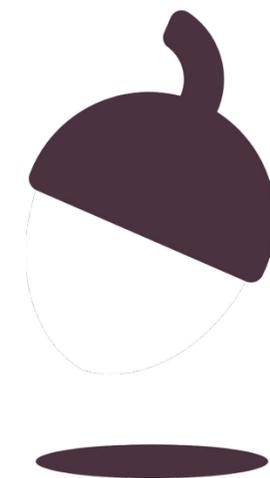


Speech and Language Therapy

# Early Play

## Lesson number 1 of 14 on Interaction and Communication

Emma Jones



**OAK**  
NATIONAL  
ACADEMY



# People Play

Watching faces for example:

- Peek-a-boo
- Changing faces (making a sound/face expression whilst looking at each other)

Movement games for example:

- Rocking rhymes – row your boat, Dancing to music

Songs with touch and movement for example:

Nursery Rhymes like ‘round and round the garden’



# Early Object Exploration

Add new objects/activities into play

e.g. brightly coloured objects, toys that light up, make a sound or change colour in some way for example spiral glitter wands or even bubbles.

1. Place the object where the child can see it
2. Stop and wait for the pupil to take the object/organise a response
3. Observe any messages
4. If the message seems to be I like, repeat the action. Show the pupil how to touch the object or move it to increase interest
5. If the message seems to be I don't like, remove the object, count slowly to 5 and then re introduce. IF the message is still I don't like, try another object
6. If the message seems to be I have had enough, try and change the way the pupil is exploring the object to keep their engagement for longer i.e. bubbles (blow on skin so they can see and feel)
7. Say something about the activity (one or two simple words)



# Getting the most out of Play Time!

## Observe

What are they **focused** on, **interested** in and/or **telling** you?

(With their facial expression, body and nonverbal communication)

## Wait

**Wait** for any **lead** from the child.

Wait 1 ½ -2 times your usual waiting time.

**Listen** to messages your child is trying to convey (With their facial expression, body and nonverbal communication)

## Respond

**Respond** to any messages your child is trying to make (e.g. I like / I want / I don't like this).

Follow the child's lead.

## Join in

Get down to the child's level, face-to-face and find a way to **playfully join in**.

Introduce and model new objects.

Try and **copy** whatever the child does with the toy. Then **wait, observe** copy again to start building turns.



# Communicating during Play

There are two key messages we are likely to see during play that will show us the child is engaged in joint attention and trying to direct us (the adults).

These are detailed below with some descriptions of how a child might communicate these messages.

<b>I like this, more please, I want that</b>	<b>I don't like this, no more please, I don't want that</b>
Eyes - looking between you and the object or fixing their gaze on the object	Eyes - not focusing or looking away
Hands - reaching or touching	Hands - withdrawing or pushing the object away
Face - smiling or nodding	Face - frowning, turning head away
Mouth - making sounds or words	Mouth - making different sounds or words, clamping mouth closed
Body - moving arms and legs with excitement OR being very still because I'm thinking!	Body - keeping still, wriggling more, trying to move away
A combination of the above or something completely different (you know the child best!).	A combination of the above or something completely different!



## Recording and Reflecting Task

Let's sing round and round the garden a few times and ..

- vary the tickle e.g. under the chin or behind the ear
- vary the time you leave between one step two step
- Introduce an object (for example a puppet or teddy bear)

This is a great time for you to observe, wait and respond to what your child likes.

Attempt	Variation	Comments
<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b>		

In one sentence, what did you notice?

When I.....

my child.....



## Recording and Reflecting on Play

Use this sheet to record and reflect on your child's interaction during play when you have introduced new and interesting objects and activities.

Date	Activity	Comments

In one sentence, what have you noticed this week?

When I.....

my child.....



# Adult Communication Strategies

## Things to try during special time...

- 1 - Allow the child to choose the toy and follow what they want to do
- 2 - Sit where your child can see me (being face to face).
- 3 - Watch what the child is doing- What are they focused on, interested in and/or trying to tell you?
- 4 - Wait and pay attention to any interactive lead by the child.
- 5 - Listen carefully to the messages the child is trying to convey with their actions, behaviours or words.
- 6 - Respond to messages the child is trying to convey (e.g. I like this/ I want this/ I don't like this/ I don't want this) accordingly by doing what the child 'asks'.
- 7 - Talk about what the child was doing using simple words? (name things, repeat words, make short, simple comments)
- 8 - Use enthusiasm in my voice so that it sounds interesting and shows excitement



# Play Time Diary

Date:

We learnt about

---

When my adult

---

---

I...

---

---

Insert picture

