

Intensive Interaction

Intent

At River View Primary School, we use Intensive Interaction to develop the foundations of communication, social interaction and positive relationships. The approach is based on the understanding that communication develops through shared experiences and meaningful interactions with others. We aim to provide pupils with opportunities to develop engagement, shared attention, anticipation, turn-taking and social understanding in a supportive and responsive environment.

By valuing all forms of communication, including facial expressions, body language, vocalisations and gestures, we seek to increase confidence, interaction and participation. Intensive Interaction supports children at the earliest stages of communication development and helps remove barriers to learning, relationships and independence.

Implementation

Intensive Interaction is delivered through regular planned and responsive interactions throughout the school day. Staff use observation and assessment information to identify each child's current communication stage and adapt their responses accordingly. Sessions may be delivered on a one-to-one basis or naturally embedded within classroom routines and play.

Principle	Purpose	Examples in Practice	Expected Outcome
Following the Child's Lead	Develop engagement and trust	Joining preferred activities	Increased willingness to interact
Shared Attention	Build connection and engagement	Sharing focus on an object or activity	Improved joint attention
Mirroring	Validate communication attempts	Copying sounds/actions/movements or facial expressions	Increased interaction
Turn Taking	Develop conversational foundations	Sound games, action games, anticipation routines	Improved social communication
Responsive Interaction	Encourage communication attempts	Responding to all verbal and non-verbal communication	Increased confidence and communication

Examples of Activities

Area of Development	Example Activities	Resources
Communication	Mirroring games, sound copying, vocal play	Sensory toys, mirrors
Interaction	Turn-taking games, anticipation routines	Balls, cause-and-effect toys
Engagement	Shared sensory play, movement games	Sensory resources, musical instructions

Impact

Children will demonstrate increased engagement, shared attention and interaction with adults and peers. Progress may be evidenced through increased eye contact, anticipation, turn-taking and communication attempts.

As communication skills develop, children will become more confident participants in learning and social situations, supporting greater independence, relationship building and curriculum access.