

Learning background: Positive Interactions



We do this because it:

<p>Happens naturally anywhere, anytime</p>	<p>Parents can make everyday things the ideal opportunity for children to develop their communication skills. The important thing is that the interaction should be pleasurable to both the child and the adult. Joining in with your child's play shows you interest in what they are doing and creates lots of talk about what is happening, what might be going to happen etc. (But not all parents find playing with their children easy or even enjoyable and a bored parent is less likely to communicate effectively). Parents who are short of time may also find it hard to stop what they need to do in order to play. The best interactions are those that are enjoyable for both/all players and are more likely to be responsive. When interactions flow easily, they last longer.</p> <p>Everyday examples of when parents may be able to interact with their children – walking to and from somewhere, going to the shop, bath/shower time, meal times, caring for plants/pets, preparing food, household chores- hanging out washing etc.</p>
<p>It sets the scene for early learning – number and counting, reading and mark making, talking about feelings</p>	<p>Activities in the home that can include counting, matching, and sorting. These are natural things that can be built into your da: counting steps to go upstairs, counting drain covers on the way to the shop, putting cutlery on the table for the number of people eating, sorting socks into pairs after washing, sorting coloured clothes from non-coloured clothes, counting satsumas into the bag at the shop.</p> <p>Putting out paper and markers, crayons etc. and showing interest in your child's mark making. As your child shows interest in shapes and marks that can lead onto writing you can provide opportunities for them to make circles, straight lines etc. with a sponge in the shower, with a spade in the sand/mud.</p> <p>Play opportunities offer children a route for them to develop a sense of well-being, you are giving them freedom in a safe environment. This helps to reduce their worries, they are more likely to recognize and talk about how they feel.</p>
<p>It helps children to form close relationships</p>	<p>The more frequent and sustained the interaction between parent and child the stronger the bond between adult and child. Listening to and giving attention to what your child is trying to tell you motivates them to talk and explain what they are doing, thinking etc. Children will make direct eye contact with adults that they are familiar with. In this way joint or shared attention begins which means that stories can be shared together, play can be a shared experience creating lots of opportunities for talk.</p>

