

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



"Butterfly" Sensory Curriculum - "Building Attention and Focus" Stages

1. Intensive Interactions



2. Curiosity Programme and 3. Bucket (alongside each other)

1. Intensive Interactions

sharing personal space  Try sitting or lying together quietly, touching or apart	physical contact  Hold or squeeze each others hands gently, clap hands together, massage hands/feet, tickle, sit/lie together	imitation  over-dramatise imitation of child's vocalisations, copy actions, laugh together
eye contact  play peek-a-boo, pull faces, look in the mirror together, stare at each other	looking at something together  Look at/explore objects together (materials, photos, toys), watch bubbles, move objects through child's field of vision, listen to sounds together	doing something together  share rhythm, play with musical instruments, play with a ball, sing action songs, play with water
burst-pause activities  build tension, anticipation and expectancy in an activity by pausing between actions	exchanging facial expressions  exchange smiles, winks, tongue poking, touching foreheads, rubbing noses	turn taking  take turns copying facial expressions, making noises vocally or with objects, pass things back and forth

Intensive Interaction is a way of helping children develop communication and social skills.

Adults join in with the child's sounds, actions or movements to create a fun back-and-forth interaction.

This helps children learn important skills like eye contact, turn-taking, sharing attention and enjoying being with other people.

2.Curiosity Programme

The Curiosity Programme is a way of learning that encourages children to explore, investigate and learn through play and **hands-on experiences**. Children are given exciting opportunities to follow their interests, solve problems and discover new things using real-life objects and open-ended resources. It helps children develop confidence, independence, creativity and a love of learning.

Four elements and they overlap:

- Get connected: This links closely to Intensive Interaction.
- Signature songs: Creating songs about everyday activities and opportunities to engage the children in them.
- Creating curiosity: Use appealing things and be interesting to encourage the child to show interest and engage.
- Playing together: Use appealing items to further develop the child's play skills.

3.Bucket

The programme helps children develop shared attention, enjoyment, communication and readiness for learning. Joint attention is needed for this.

4 stages (1:1 moving to group activity)

Stage 1 – Bucket: children watch exciting objects and activities to help them focus and pay attention.

Stage 2 – Building Attention: children enjoy a fun activity led by an adult to keep their attention for longer.

Stage 3 – Turn Taking and Reengaging: children join in with simple turn-taking activities and games.

Stage 4 – Shifting and Reengaging Attention – where staff are modelling and building independence (2 staff members needed): children complete short independent activities linked to the session to build focus and learning skills.