

Constantly seeking adult attention

Children need support to self-regulate, when their feelings are in balance, they are able to make decisions on what they want and behaviour needed to support them (Such as concentration and resisting impulse). They will need lots of stimulating experiences and modelling to help them develop their communication. That's why the time you spend listening to them and having conversations with them is so important.

Typical development

3 to 4 year olds will be learning to:	Start a conversation with an adult or friend and continue it for many turns
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How can practitioners support conversations with children?

- Do all adults actively observe children's interactions and communication style?
- Are all adults responsive to children's attempts to gain attention?
- Do adults check in with children regularly in their play to show them they are valued?
- Could you create jobs for children to do, so that they have a sense of duty and responsibility within their community?
- Does the routine of the day often interrupt children's play?
- Does practitioners style allow children to play independently or is there a lot of adult led play?
- Consider asking curious questions to parents to find out about how the child is at home and if there are any changes or challenges that may make them dysregulated.
- Do practitioners provide opportunities for children to talk about things that are important to them?
- Reflect on the times when individual children interrupt, notice any patterns e.g group times/during focused times with another child.
- Ensure opportunities for good quality interactions and 'setting the scene' at adult led activities.

Activity ideas/resources

- Adult to model waiting through people games/turn taking/role play area.
- Adult to introduce signs/prompts to support waiting when children interrupt. Remember to come back to the child.
- Adults to give children time to pursue their play without interruptions.
- Adult to rephrase instructions to promote children's thinking e.g. "I wonder what that sound means..." when bell rings for snack time. Giving children a voice and sense of belonging.
- Adult to listen to children's interest and update one page profile/all about me if needed.