



Social Communication: Social Interaction 1 [SI1]

**During face-to-face games,
physical activities, or routines,
your child watches you closely**

Purpose

- To help your child interact socially with you more often and more consistently without toys.

Description

This occurs when the child is engaged in a game or routine with another person and looks at the person in expectation of an event or action. A look of anticipation during a game or routine shows that the child is beginning to recognize that their communication partner is contributing to the routine in some way and the child is expecting something to occur or continue to occur.

- Child watches as the adult counts to three before blowing bubbles
- Adult bounces child on knee playing a horse game, and child looks as adult says, "ready, set go!"
- Child looks at teacher during circle time to see what song comes next

Activities

- *Bath Time:* Try starting a game by splashing in the water to see if your child will join in.
- *Dressing:* Try starting face-to-face games like peek-a-boo as you hide behind a shirt, or a tickling game as you put on socks.
- *At the Store:* Try to play face-to-face games while your child is riding in the cart, like singing a song with motions.
- *Playtime:* When face-to-face, try tickling games, peek-a-boo, or blowing raspberries on your child's belly or feet. You can also dance to music with your child.



- *At Home or for a Walk:* Sing songs with actions (examples: Itsy Bitsy Spider, Ring-around-the-Rosie, The Noble Duke of York, Row Row Row Your Boat, Pat-A-Cake, etc.)

Strategies

- *Use mirroring to join in an activity* – observe what your child is doing and do the same thing to show interest, engage with your child, and begin an interaction
- *Be animated* – be silly, expressive, and loud when interacting with your child. This might draw your child’s attention to you while you interact.
- *Get into your child’s world* – sit at your child’s level and play face-to-face
- *Play face-to-face games without toys* – sometimes toys/objects can distract children from interacting socially. Teach your child that you are the source of a fun social interaction by playing silly animated games without toys.

Suggested Toys

- Grooming toys
- Toy foods
- Play phone
- Bubbles
- Puppets

Goal Mastery

An ASAP Goal is mastered if your child meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Shows the skill at least three times
- Shows the skill during different activities or in different settings such as during snack time, during playtime, or at the grocery store.
- Shows the skill with minimal help or support from an adult