

TRANSCRIPT: Encouraging interaction: Leyla

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Leyla isn't a child that will come up to you and interact naturally. She'll just take her shoe off and spins it by the shoe laces and she's quite happy just in her own little world, just spinning, just watching things going on around her. She's also pre-verbal. She occasionally will say a word but, functionally, she doesn't use any spoken language.

Leyla's quite a fascinating child because she is working at quite an early level, cognitively. She's probably at P level four in some areas, but for intensive interaction she just has an amazing strength where she can just create such a wide, diverse range of movements. She uses her hands. She uses her finger. She'll use her head. She'll move her eyes and she is very, very aware that the adult is copying her as well, and I think it shows a real spike in her academic profile that she can do that.

Intensive interaction gives her an opportunity to interact with another person and it gives the opportunity for us to work together on her pre-cursors to communication - so things like eye contact, turn taking, because she definitely knows that she does a movement and then she waits, and then you do the movement, and for Leyla that's a really big thing because there are very few other situations where she'll naturally wait her turn.

It's like a game now with Leyla, the intensive interaction, something she really enjoys and she loves watching you copy her and that kind of shared pleasure where she'll laugh, you'll laugh and then you both make eye contact is fantastic, and we've also built trust in our relationship and that has then enabled us to move her on through that trusting, shared enjoyment.