

The Curiosity Program

Typically....

- We try to engage our children with conversation and focus on getting a response.
- We talk more and ask lots of questions.
- We get confused when we don't get the response we want.... so we give up!



We need to try other ways of entering our child's world, combining Intensive Interaction techniques with rhythm, movement and curiosity to build attention and engagement.

How?

- A couple of times a day, turn off phones, TV and all distractions
- Be available..... be the most interesting thing in the room!
- Encourage your child's curiosity by being and playing alongside them.
- Watch...copy...wait...try again, be present in the moment
- Have fun and enjoy....
- Model some movements and sounds yourself so that they can watch and may even copy you.
- Don't worry if, initially, you experience rejection...as you continue to offer these opportunities there will also be moments of success!



So, let's start with what your child enjoys doing... emptying and filling, peek a boo, building up and knocking down, scribbling, sprinkling, unwrapping, sorting and lining up. The idea is to encourage your child to become curious about what you have or what you are doing.

To do this you need.....

- To be the most interesting thing in the room!
- A range of exciting everyday items to conceal in a range of irresistible containers.
- to entice them with a peek into a tin and encourage their sense of curiosity to explore.



On both pages there are some pictures of curiosity boxes you might be able to make at home:



This is a popular chocolate box, filled with pom poms. Playing with the pom poms by taking them out, emptying, refilling, throwing in the air and sorting into colours can be really engaging for children who enjoy this type of play.

You can use any chocolate box or similar container with small objects in each insert. Use items you think would interest or motivate your child. Play with it yourself, quietly alongside. Invite them in with open body language and wait for them to engage. Try not to push it towards them and don't worry if they ignore the first few attempts.

You can always try something else!

These tiny trinket boxes can be used to hide tiny treasures, you can delight in removing the lid to reveal the secret items inside. Who could resist coming over to take a peek....and suddenly you're sharing attention over something you can both enjoy!



This one has foil rolled into balls, they are interesting to rattle, feel, and tip out of the tin. They make a lovely noise when sprinkled onto a tray or back into the tin.

You can use pasta, tapioca, rice or any other common dried food that sprinkles well.

This light up frog gives everyone a surprise when they lift the edge of the lid and peek in. You can build on the sense of curiosity by having a little peek yourself and making "ooh" noises to hopefully spark their interest.



This one is a simple tin of drinking straws, it is surprisingly effective in developing curiosity, attention and focus. These everyday items when presented in interesting containers appear very different to their normal use, they become great sprinkling toys!

For each box or bag, keep to one type of materials e.g. Straws, foil, pasta, or beads. This will keep the activity simple and also help you to know what your child enjoys exploring. When you know this you can work with variations of similar things e.g. if they like exploring pasta you could introduce a box with lentils, tapioca or rice.