

Social Communication and Interaction groups

Purpose of the groups:

To enable less participative children to develop the skills they need to join in with others. To give them the experience of being an active participant by:

- **Becoming aware of each other**
 - singing the 'hello' song to each person present and encouraging eye contact as we do so;
 - using games which encourage looking at each other such as 'roll the ball' and using each person's name before you roll the ball to him/her;
 - showing things to each other, and so on.
- **Learning and using each other's names**
 - playing games such as 'who's hiding?' or 'whose turn is it?'
- **Learning how to take turns**
 - playing enjoyable turn-taking games. It is important to give children clear guidance about how turns work, and whose turn it is, until they begin to be able to anticipate for themselves. Many activities can become turn-taking games simply by putting the pieces into a bag and taking turns to get them out. Remember, the more motivating the toy is, the harder it will be for the child to wait for his/her turn.
- **Making choices**
 - verbally, if possible, or by pointing or looking;
 - objects, photos, drawings or symbols can be used to help make this easier for children.
- **Following the leader and giving the lead**
 - copying easy songs and rhymes. Having one clear leader helps children feel confident about what to do. Having a chance to **BE THE LEADER** builds confidence and initiative, but the task must be simple and clearly modelled, for instance, one person bangs the drum and the others jump

Social Communication and Interaction groups are fun and simple to run. They enable children to develop their communication, interaction and play skills, therefore enabling them to build relationships, participate more fully and access a wider range of learning opportunities.