

COMMUNICATION STARTS WITH CONNECTION

Five therapeutic practices that support connection and engagement.



CO-REGULATION

Co-regulation means offering support and modeling to help children achieve their just-right state where they are ready to be engaged and learn.

Regulation strategies will vary depending on the unique sensory needs of a child, but may include swinging, heavy work, squeezes, and modifying the environment.*



CHILD-LED INTERACTIONS

Children need to be interested in order to learn. Follow their lead- wait and watch to see how they choose to play before joining in. Respond to their cues and notice what catches their attention. This creates reciprocal interactions that are meaningful and motivating for the child.



SUPPORTED JOINT ENGAGEMENT

When a child focuses on an item or other point of interest and an adult joins in. They may provide contingent language input, model play, or show a child how something works.

Ex: The child looks at an airplane in the sky and the adult says, "Wow! An airplane! It's flying."

Ex: The child dumps out a basket of magnetiles and the adult sits beside them and starts to build.



CONTINGENT IMITATION

A strategy in which the adult intentionally imitates a child's body movements, actions with objects, gestures, and vocalizations in view of the child. This creates an opportunity for reciprocal interactions and increases social engagement.



HONOR ALL COMMUNICATION

Acknowledge all communicative behaviors and respond accordingly. Try to determine what the intended message is and model language to match. Allow children to protest, respect their cues, and teach them that they have the right to say no.

*Collaborate with an OT to identify sensory support strategies that are individualized for each child.