

The Four **i**s

Four Skill Areas to Develop Prior to Spoken Words

interaction

- Socially interested in others
- Makes eye contact with a person speaking to them
- Engages in simple play routines
- Takes turns vocalizing or takes turns in simple play routines
- Uses objects functionally (ex: using comb for hair)
- Displays functional and symbolic play skills
- Demonstrates joint attention

input

- Anticipates what will happen next in a routine
- Understands common words and phrases in context (ex: bye-bye, peek-a-boo)
- Looks at an object or person when named
- Identifies common vocabulary
- Follows routine directions with cues
- Follows simple one-step directions

imitation

- Participates in back and forth vocalizations or play (ex: rolling a ball)
- Imitates actions in play (ex: hitting a drum)
- Imitates simple sounds (ex: fake cough, mmm for yummy)
- Imitates play sounds (ex: whoa!, moo)
- Imitates simple words (ex: uh-oh, mama, ball)

intent

- Communicates with eye gaze and/or joint attention
- Communicates with contact and/or distal gestures
- Communicates with representational gestures and/or signs
- Pairs vocalizations with eye gaze and/or gestures to communicate
- Communicates for a variety of pragmatic functions