

TRANSCRIPT: Intensive interaction: Jordan

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Jordan has cerebral palsy and he has very limited speech. He has about twelve words that he can use but he uses a lot of sounds and gestures. He lets us know his feeling by his smiles and if he's not happy we certainly know. He uses a BIGMack sometimes to communicate but if you can get down to his level, use his sounds, his gestures, that's when he really communicates with you.

A lot of our children, their movements are quite restricted. Jordan has a classroom chair and, for his good posture, he's sat back, his feet are strapped in and he has a tray top, but when you do the intensive interaction, I find it's easier if he doesn't have any restrictions on him so that his movements can be free to do what he wants to do.

This morning, I was allowing Jordan to take the lead, as opposed to me taking the lead, which is usually what happens in a classroom situation.

When we first started the intensive interaction with Jordan we just copied what he did but to progress it further, sometimes I try to take the lead and push Jordan out of his comfort zone a little bit and bring in some different sounds, different movements and different gestures.

Through the work that we've been doing with the intensive interaction, Jordan now will have a conversation with me, in his way. He'll go to the window. He'll point outside and he'll say 'car', and he couldn't speak before we started the intensive interaction. He just made sounds, whereas now there's much more definite words are coming out as well. He now will actively seek out his friends to have his little chat with them, make his little sounds and they respond back to him with his sounds, with copying his movement, maybe get down on the floor to shuffle around with him. And Jordan just giggles with delight when it's other children who are doing it with him.