

What is the Curiosity Programme?

The Curiosity Programme is a fun-filled interactive way of supporting your child's attention, language and social communication. It teaches your child about the world, how to get on with people and how to communicate. It is an approach designed by Gina Davies, Speech and Language Therapist.

Each session consists of four stages:

Stage 1: Get Connected

This draws on Intensive Interaction therapy techniques and helps adults to tune in and develop children's social interaction.

We do this by:

- Imitating sounds and actions.
- Inviting a response by modelling some interactions.
- Exaggerating and adding playfulness to engage them.
- Sharing the interaction.

Stage 2: Signature Sequences

Adding rhymes and songs to daily activities such as brushing teeth or getting dressed. Use the tune from songs you already know and make up the words to fit e.g 'brush, brush, brush your teeth!' to the tune of row your boat.

This will help children to:

- Build a connection to activities and with adults in a fun way.
- Understand turn taking as the early building blocks of communication.
- Develop awareness of sounds and words and enjoy playing with sounds.



Stage 3: Creating Curiosity

Opportunities to develop curiosity, exploration and experience.

We do this by:

- Creating collections of items, use lots of the same things but vary colour, size or type e.g. pom poms or buttons of different size and colour or a variety of plastic fruit shapes.
- Avoid using boxes of mixed objects as you won't know what they like and it's visually confusing.
- Using containers which visually appeal to children with a variety of textures and materials.
- Adults modelling excitement and building tension, peeking in and then exclaiming 'ooh!'
- Following your child's lead and letting your child explore the objects in their own way.
- Grouping collections of the same items together so you begin to understand what they like.



- Model some ways to explore curiosity items in a variety of ways, maybe by sprinkling them onto a tray, sorting them into groups or making patterns with them.



Stage 4: Playing Together

Engage your child, copy what they do and offer a shared activity based on their interests.

We encourage this by using all of the above ideas and also by:

- Following your child's lead
- Trying new things
- Adding rhythm to our words and sounds
- Singing as you play



Activities you can offer to encourage interaction:



- Gone – hiding toys under boxes or scarves, playing peek a boo etc
- Building – tower building and knocking them down
- Scribbling – large paper and lots of colours 'for the love of scribbling'.
- Odd one out – collections of objects with one random item, sorting and matching.
- Giving – passing objects to others, rolling a ball to each other.
- Unwrapping – covering items in loose wrapping paper and revealing.

The Curiosity Programme is designed to support young children with speech, language and communication needs, children who struggle to attend to others, share attention and children who do not yet have tolerance for group working. However, it has been effective for many other children who present with difficulties with their speech, language and social communication development.

This might not be the kind of speech and language therapy that is expected!

However, this practical intervention aims to meet the needs of children by working towards shared attention and functional communication skills, developed through play. Please speak to your child's speech and language therapist for more information.

Adapted from The Curiosity Programme – Gina Davies, by Tamsin Clarke Speech and Language Therapy Support Practitioner.