

2

SHARE THE FOCUS: JOINT ATTENTION



“ “
Providing language input that is directly relevant to the child’s current focus of attention has an effect on language acquisition.

Joint attention is when a caregiver and child have a shared focus on the same object or activity. This often looks like a caregiver and child looking at each other, then both shifting to look at the same thing.

Follow your child’s lead and engage in their interests.

RESEARCH SHOWS...

Following a child’s interests and creating moments of connection strengthens your bond with your child, social skills, and emotional awareness.



TRY THIS:

- Following your child's lead and engage in their interests
- Give something to draw attention to one spot both of you can look at
- Holding your baby so they face out from you makes it easier for them to see what you see
 - Try this when reading or walking around the house
- Label feelings
 - “You seem upset”
 - “I feel so excited!”
- Use pointing; point to objects to direct child’s attention
- **Sequential interaction:** Be sure the child is looking at you and then start a conversation about a toy; if the child breaks eye contact, pause until the child looks at you again.
- All of this is very important for **theory of mind:** understanding of others' thoughts and emotions