

The stages of one to one interaction

Stage 1: The child does not communicate nor participate

e.g. *passively accepts help [e.g. stands while coat is buttoned] but makes no attempt to seek assistance; retreats to bedroom when visitors arrive*

Stage 2: The child participates but limited communication

e.g. *complies with requests which are perceived as non-threatening or non-invasive (may deal out cards, pass an object or draw a picture, but be unable to copy gestures or point to objects on request); joins in group activities 'singing' (mouthing) or moving in unison*

Stage 3: The child communicates without talking

e.g. *responds by nodding/shaking head; points to indicate answer or make a choice; writes a message; provides an action or gesture to complete a sentence or convey a message*

TALKING BRIDGE: The child talks to an existing conversational partner (CP) within earshot of a 'new' person

e.g. *talks to mother in same room as teacher, either quietly or at normal volume; talks to parents or siblings at home in front of visitors*

Stage 4: The child talks to a 'new' person *through* their CP

e.g. *answers teacher's question by telling parent or friend the answer; participates in turn-taking games with parent and teaching assistant or therapist (even when answering the new person, child tends to look at parent)*

Stage 5: The child uses voice with a 'new person'

e.g. *laughs audibly; joins in sound-effects for story; reads aloud (not true communication – easier for confident readers than actual conversation); says 'Mmm' for 'yes'*

Stage 6: The child uses single words with a 'new' person

e.g. *participates in single-word turn-taking games; responds to questions/prompts without parent present, giving minimum of information*

Stage 7: The child uses sentences with a 'new' person

e.g. *uses sentences in structured activities without parent present; answers questions with a phrase/sentence; little initiation unless part of a structured activity*

<p>At this stage it is important to slide parent out if they are present, if only for a short time initially (if parent is still present it counts as Stage 4). Generalisation: Can now introduce another child or adult, or carry out the same activities in a different location)</p>

Stage 8: The child converses with the 'new' person

e.g. *has an adult-led, two-way conversation, provided no one else is perceived to be listening; volunteers spontaneous comments but questions and true initiation (e.g. asking for help) may be limited.*

