

**Stumbling blocks in Floortime™ at FEDC 3:
Helpful strategies for purposeful emotional interactions**

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Summary: By staying “in it” with your child, using high affect and creating pleasurable experiences—even being a playful pest to keep your child’s attention if you have to, you can support your child in developing and initiating purposeful emotional interactions

- ✓ A child’s sensory issues interfere with the ability to interact, so we want to keep his/her individual or sensory profile in mind.
- ✓ When a child is unable to read the emotional signalling and gesturing in another person, (s)he misses out on all of the non-verbal cues that can guide behaviour, so might act out instead.
- ✓ Be interactive and playful using high affect, fewer words, gestures and facial expressions to entice the child in to an interaction.
- ✓ Pull the child into engagement and interaction by activating more sensory systems through body play and using your body as a tool.
- ✓ When you strengthen engagement in all of these ways, the child learns about emotional signalling because (s)he is emotionally involved and invested with you in the relationship.

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