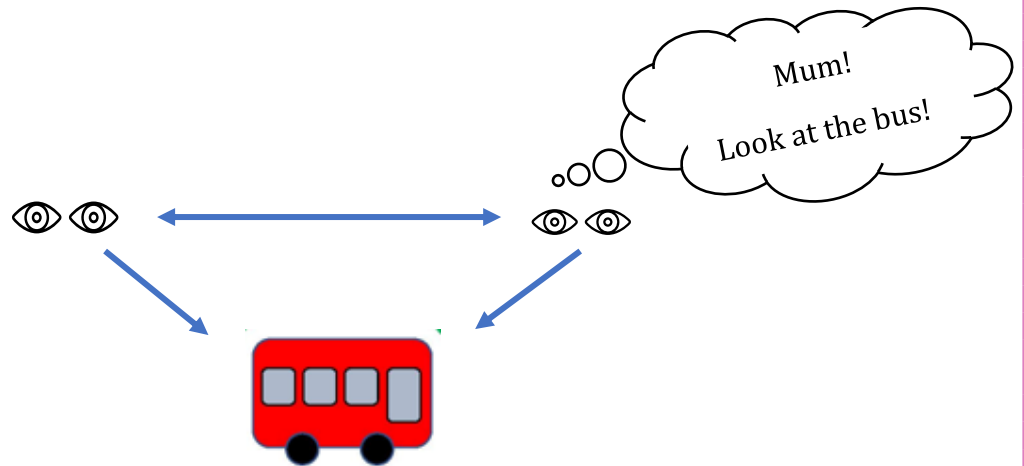


Encouraging Joint Attention

Joint attention happens when two people are focusing on the same thing, and sharing their interest with each other using eye contact, pointing, or showing.



Top Tips and Ideas

The first step to help your child to develop their joint attention skills is to play games and activities that will encourage them to look at you.

Get down to your child's level so they can easily see your face



Be dramatic and use your voice, facial expression, and gestures to help engage them.



Copy your child's actions, sounds and noises



Model gestures such as showing interesting items and pointing at things of interest



Hold your child's favourite toys or activities up by your eyes. This will encourage them to look at you and reach or point to what they want.

Play people games like tickles and chase



Play peek-a-boo with a blanket, your hands or from behind the sofa



Sing songs to your child (e.g. head shoulders, knees, and toes)



Be silly - put items on your head and make them fall off in a dramatic way!



Put stickers, bubbles, or bath foam on different areas of your face. Show your child by pointing and encourage them to clean your face.



Use toys and objects in a dramatic and interesting way. Try dropping some balls in tub of water from a height so they make a big splash!



Use simple verbal routines in play that signal that something exciting is going to happen (e.g. ready steady...go, 1 2 3...up!)

Try playing back and forth games like rolling a ball / car to each other. When familiar with the game try waiting for your child to look at you before you roll the ball back

