

# Joint Attention

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## What does it mean?

- Attending to the same thing as another person.
- A shared interest between 2+ people on the same object/thing
- Child will shift eye gaze between person and object when exhibiting joint attention



## Why is it important?

- Foundation for social, cognitive, and language development
- Impacts our ability to form meaningful relationships
- Allows us to have appropriate interactions with peers
- Helps child get “what they want”



## How can I do it at home?

- Get down on their level!
- Bring preferred items to your face to help with eye contact
- Use gestures and verbal model to direct attention to object (i.e. Look car!)
- Use hand over hand to help them “point” to object of interest
- Following child’s lead- when they perform an action or show an interest you should copy their behavior
- Engage in activities with turn-taking
- Favorite toys: pretend food/cooking, book reading, bubbles, music instruments, nursery rhymes