JOINT ATTENTION
What is joint attention? It is when two people share a common interest in an experience or object such as a toy. For example, you shake a rattle near your 9 month old baby and they wiggle and squeal with delight as they look towards the sound of the rattle and then they smile and look back to you as if to say “That’s was fun, do it again Dad!”. Or when your 14 month old toddles out into the backyard and hears an airplane overhead and her eyes widen as she looks toward you and points towards the airplane as if to say “Wow, Mom did you see the airplane too???” Children develop joint attention very early in life, long before they are able to verbally express their feelings. This shift of eye gaze from an object to a person in order to include that other person in on the experience is the magic of joint attention and it is a very important skill because it is a pre-cursor needed for developing spoken language.

GAMES TO PLAY

UP AND DOWN AIRPLANE

IN AND OUT + UP AND DOWN – SLINKY

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT – BLOW BUBBLES

PLACE THINGS ON A HIGH SHELF

SHAKE SWING OR SWING AND STOP AND WAIT FOR THEM TO RESPOND

UP AND DOWN RAINSTICK

BOUNCE ON A BALL THEN WAIT – WAIT FOR EYE CONTACT FOR MORE BOUNCING

SHIRT TO GET DRESSED – WAIT FOR EYE CONTACT TO CONTINUE DRESSIG

UP PLEASE – IN THE AIR/ON A ZIP LINE/ ONTO A SWING

SHAKE THE POM POM AND THEY LOOK

DRIVE A CAR OR TRAIN BACK AND FORTH ON A TABLE

FOOD/ENJOYABLE TOY – HOLD UNTIL HE/SHE LOOKS AT YOU

MY TURN/YOUR TURN / CONNECT 4 TYPE OF TURN TAKING GAMES

CLOSE JAR TIGHT AND GIVE CHILD TO OPEN, WAIT UNTIL THEY GIVE YOU EYE CONTACT TO GET HELP

JACK IN THE BOX

CHASING THE PARENTS

PEEK ABOO AND HIDING

BRINING THE KEY TO MOM AND DAD

PLAY NIGHT NIGHT AND THEN WAKE UP

BLOW A BALLOON AND LET OUT THE AIR

TAP TURNING

PUPPET

MAKING A MISTAKE ON PUROSE

MAKS

TUNNEL AND BLINNKING ALL

SIT DOWN AND STAND UP - “SIT DOWN” ------ “STAND UP”

EXCHANGING TOYS

ROW YOUR BOAT

ITSI BITSY SPIDER

RING AROUND THE ROSES

HUMPTY DUMPTY

IMATATE SOUND BY CHILD

Eg child – “ahhh” parent – “ahh”

MAKE A SANDWICH OR A TACO

LIONS DEN, HIDE BEHIND SOFA OR BEAN BAG