

Active Engagement

What is active engagement, and why is it important?

The term active engagement means being ready to interact with others and learn from them. Research shows that children with ASD who have at least 25 hours of engaged time per week do better in kindergarten than those that do not.

We are giving you strategies to help your child be actively engaged with you throughout the day. Over time, we want to see your child feeling good and involved in meaningful activities more often. We also want to see your child communicating with you more often in a variety of ways. When we watch you interact with your child, we get an idea of how you and your child spend time being actively engaged.

How do I know if my child is engaged with me?

Your child is engaged with you when your child:

- Feels generally content and his/her needs are met;
- Has their body turned toward you and is looking at your faces more than once a minute;
- Knows what is expected of him or her in an activity;
- Is actively participating in a productive way;
- Can easily shift his or her attention to people from a thought or object rather than getting 'stuck' on one idea or item;
- Responds to what you say;
- Communicates with you. This can include looking to you, giving you something, or pulling you to something. It also can include using gestures or words to send you a message.

Your child can use these skills to be engaged with peers and other people.