

Different levels of involvement: climbing the ladder to interaction

The child who is interacting with you and/or with any of the other children

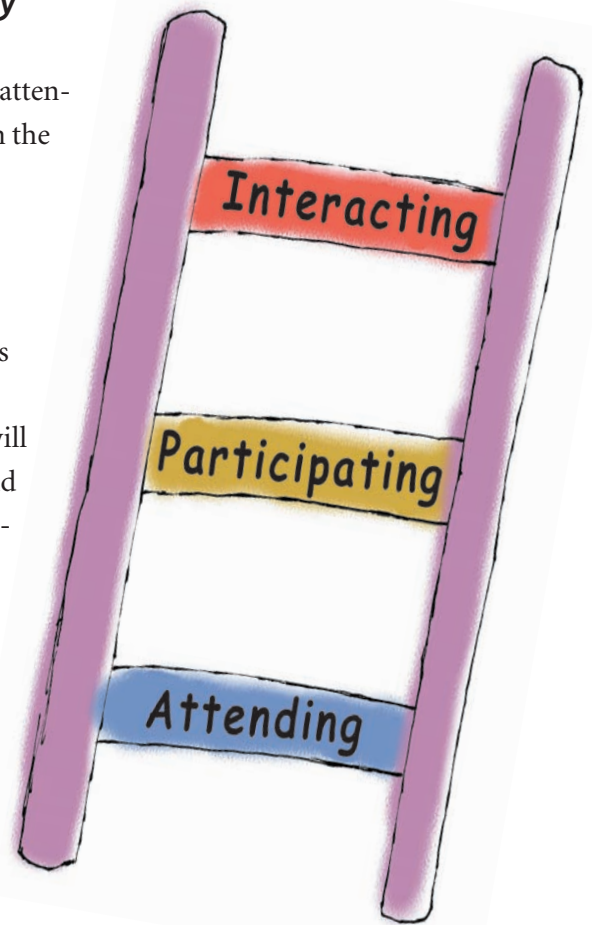
It is easy for children who are sociable to get your attention, especially because they are the easiest ones in the group for *you* to interact with.

The child who is participating, but not interacting

Some children with reluctant conversational styles participate in activities but do not try to compete with the other children for your attention. They will not initiate unless they have your full attention and see you waiting expectantly for them to communicate.

The child who is attending, but not participating

This level of involvement can be typical of children who have reluctant conversational styles. They often do not know how to join in and are very dependent on others to tell them what to do or how to do it.



The child who is not attending

A child who does not pay attention may typically be delayed in development and/or have a passive or own agenda conversational style.

Observing children's interest in the activity

A child's interest may not be obvious – observe closely to see what aspect of the activity she's interested in. If she's playing with playdough, is she interested in poking and pulling it, or is she using it to pretend? Is that snakelike object she rolled a snake in her mind, or is it something else? Don't jump to conclusions – take the time to be sure you know what her focus is.