




An Introduction to The PLAY Project

Functional Developmental Level 1

Self Regulation & Shared Attention (Birth to 4 months)

- Can remain calm and regulated enough to share attention with people.
 - Can sustain brief episodes of interaction.
- Regulation derailed by *Comfort Zone* activities.
 - Stimming, scripting, lining up, etc. remove attention
- When you see CZ, child has holes in FDL 1
- Key Question: How much is the child with us?
- Where is the child's attention? What is the child's intention?
- Use 'The Rabbit Hole Techniques' to join the child at FDL 1

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Functional Developmental Level 2

Engagement (5-8 months)

- More sustained attention = engagement
- You call to them and they look. Circles begin!!
- Peek a boo is the classic FDL 2 game
- Key Question: How easy is it to engage the child?
- This is the 'sweat' level. The parent/professional has to do the work (i.e. sweat) to keep the child engaged
- Hard to follow lead but you can! (See Rabbit Hole T'niques)
- Watch out for visual activities.
- Use 'Comfort Zone' technique.




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Functional Developmental Level 3

Two Way Communication (8-14 months)

- Opening and closing of 6-10 circles.
- Key activities: Simple cause and effect games.
- Key Question: Is the child initiating?
- We want to 'create a monster' (i.e. child won't leave you alone!)
- This is the 'wait' level. The parent/professional has to wait to see if the child will initiate (i.e. open circles)
- Beginning of understanding routines
- Beginning of first single words





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Functional Developmental Level 4

Two Way Communication (14-20 months)

- Opening and closing of 10-30 circles.
- Solid 4 =Totally 'with us'. Continuous flow of interaction
- Gestural communication along with words. Imitation.
- 50+ words
- Follows spontaneous 1 step commands: Go, get, give to. . .
- Feelings more and more organized
- Problem solver! Has his/her own ideas.
- 'Little stories': 'Gets' meaningful sequences.
- Simple pretend: Phone to ear. Bottle to baby's mouth





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Functional Developmental Level 5

Shared Meanings (18 to 30 months)

- Classic two year old communication
- 1-2 word phrases
- What, Where, Who, Actions, Yes/No
 - Not open ended 'What', Why, or When or Pronouns
- One thematic pretend play with adults
- Follows 1-2 step commands.
- Greetings emerging
- Compliance
 - It is not following their lead to follow their lead




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Functional Developmental Level 6

Emotional Thinking (30 to 48 months)

- Talking in sentences
- 'Why': Can recall the immediate past.
- Builds bridges between ideas
 - Identifies own and others' feelings
- Recognizes relationship between feeling, behavior and consequences
- Two thematic play
- Carries on simple conversations
- Peer play established.
- Misbehavior as developmental accomplishment

