EYE GAZE: A KEY TO LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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WHAT IS EYE GAZE?

- It’s more than eye contact
- It’s how we take in visual information
- It’s how we focus and shift focus
- It’s part of social cues
TYPES OF EYE GAZE:

- Saccades
- Eye Contact
- Joint Attention
- Vergence
- Smooth Pursuit
A NOTE ON LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION:

- American Sign Language
- Cued Language
- Signed English
- Listening and Spoken Language
- ASL and Spoken Language
- ASL and Cued Speech
FROM EYE GAZE TO LITERACY:

Eye Gaze
- Reacting to facial expression
- Joint attention
- Turn taking

Language
- Labeling
- Answering Questions
- Making Choices
- Following directions

Literacy
- Line Jumps
- Note taking
- Fingerspelling
- Sight words
- Attending to an interpreter
ENCOURAGING EYE CONTACT IN YOUNG CHILDREN:

- Make funny faces
- Play Peek a Boo
- Give High Fives
- Interact with their environment
LANGUAGE STRATEGIES:

• Attention First – Eye contact or peripheral vision
• Let them Explore items- wait for them to look to you
• Label everything- Show the item, Say/Sign/Cue, Show it again
• Set up the interaction
**AS THEY GROW:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labeling</th>
<th>Look! A Cat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Questions</td>
<td>What is it? A cat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe It</td>
<td>Tell me about the cat. It’s orange and outside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write About It</td>
<td>The Orange Cat is sitting outside.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EYE GAZE PROGRESS:

Smooth Pursuits

Joint Attention

Saccades
HOW DO CHILDREN LEARN?

- Play
- Social interaction
- Exploration
- Direct instruction
- Mimicing
INFANTS & TODDLERS:

- Have fun with mirrors!
- Mobiles
- Bubbles
- What doesn’t belong?
- Red light / Green light
- Rolling a Ball
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN:

- Simon says
- Use visual schedules
- Reading with finger tracking
- Reading with a bookmark or index card
- Word searches
- Dot to dots
- I Spy
- Find colors or shapes
- Tracing Letters & Pictures
PRINTABLE RESOURCE:

- Professionals Guide:  
  https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wY6TopJ9Xw9kQ1V8YHoDPhKCpxB5Ohsh

- Parents Guide:  
  https://drive.google.com/open?id=11xBwVNFexeDERdipMWtLgHFmIiyDLw6