

## What is attending?

Attending is when you notice what your child is doing without questioning or criticising.

Much play between you and your child tends to take the form of questioning. The art of attending is to avoid asking questions but to describe out loud with warmth and enthusiasm what **your child** is doing or how they look.

Attending is following their lead rather than directing their play. It enables you to get into the world of your child rather than trying to make them do what you want them to do.



The message that you want to give is:  
*"I am really interested in you".*

## How does **attending** work?

- **Attending** helps your child understand how you would like them to behave so they know and understand what behaviours to repeat to get your approval.
- **Attending** makes **your** child feel very special.
- **Attending** gives **your child** time to control what they want to do.
- **Attending** increases the time that you spend with your child behaving in a friendly and co-operative way.
- You can learn to observe your child and notice the good things that they do. You will find that your child has lots of positive behaviours - not just undesirable ones.
- **Attending** increases desirable behaviour.
- **Attending** skills will help you to relax and have fun playing with your child.
- As your child begins to enjoy this positive attention from you he/she will try harder to please you by doing things you like.
- You **become** a good behaviour model for your child.

## What do I do?

There are five different areas that you can attend to:

- **Behaviour**  
*"I can see that you are really taking care of those toys."*  
*"I like the way that you are sharing with your brother."*
- **Activity**  
*"I can see that you are driving the red bus down the road."*  
*"I like it when you build a tower."*
- **Position**  
*"I can see that you are sat nicely at the table."*  
*"I like it when you come and sit next to me."*
- **Appearance**  
*"I can see that you have chosen to put on your lovely blue jumper."*  
*"I like it when you wear your hair in buns."*
- **Mood**  
*"I can see that you are a bit sad today but you are trying really hard to put on a happy face."*  
*"I like it when you are happy because you are showing me your big smiley face."*