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# Boosting Language Through Interactions

Research shows that for an interaction to be (and remain) engaging for children, three important ingredients work together:

## 1. Child's Interests

- Interactions that are child-led are based on the child's interests, which means that everything that they communicate about is something they want to learn more about.



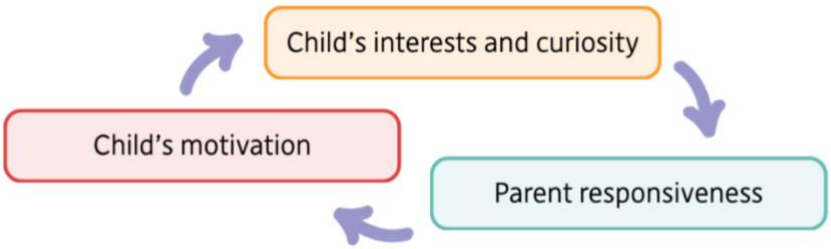
## 2. Parent Responsiveness

- Parents need to first learn to be **responsive** to their child. This means the parent learns to respond to their child:
  - **Promptly:** The parent responds within 1-2 seconds of their child saying or doing something
  - **Contingently:** The parent's response relates specifically to what their child has communicated or shown interest in
  - **Encouragingly:** The parent responds enthusiastically to their child's communication and interests



## 3. Child's Motivation

- The child is motivated when their parent is consistently responsive because it makes them feel competent and that their ideas are important. This motivates them to stay in the interaction and continues the cycle of the child sharing more about their interests.




Resources:

- Bilingualism Facts & Myths (https://hanen.org/information-tips/bilingualism-in-young-children-separating-fact-fr)
- Expected milestones for 13 to 18 months (https://www.asha.org/public/developmental-milestones/communication-milestones-13-to-18-months/)
- Expected milestones for birth to 1 year of age (https://www.asha.org/public/developmental-milestones/communication-milestones-birth-to-1-year/)

** The above information was adapted from The Hanen Centre (FUNdamentals Guide)*