

Involvement Signs and the Scale for Involvement for Babies and Toddlers

The following information has been produced by kind permission of the Pen Green research Development and Training Base. The Pen Green framework for engaging parents.

Involvement is a very useful tool to use, both in settings and at home. Very young babies are involved when they are focusing intently on something. The signs and scale for very young children babies might be slightly different. Laevers (2005) has recently carried out some work on looking at infants and toddlers and these are the signs and scale he has come up with for the very young.

Involvement Signs for Babies and Toddlers

When children are:

- Concentrated and focused
- Interested, motivated, fascinated
- Mentally active
- Fully experiencing sensations and meanings
- Enjoying the satisfaction of the exploring drive
- Operating at the very limits of their capabilities

We know that deep level learning is taking place...

The scale for Involvement for Babies and Toddlers

Level	Involvement	Examples
1	Very Low	<p>A child hardly shows any activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concentration: staring, daydreaming. • An absent, passive attitude • No goal – oriented activity. • No signs of exploration and interest • Not taking anything in
2	Low	<p>A child shows some degree of activity but is often interrupted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited concentration: Looking away, fiddling, dreaming etc • Being easily distracted • Action only leading to limited results
3	Moderate	<p>A child is busy the whole time, but without real concentration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine actions, brief activities • Limited motivation, no real dedication, is not challenged • Does not gain deep-level experiences • Is not absorbed • Does not use capabilities to full extent • The activity does not challenge the child's imagination and mental capacity.
4	High	<p>There are clear signals of involvement, but these are not always present to their full extent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general a child is absorbed by the activity • Most of the time there is real concentration, but the attention is sometimes distracted • A child is challenged, there is a certain degree of enthusiasm • Uses capabilities • Uses imagination and mental capacity
5	Very High	<p>A child is busy without interruption and is completely absorbed in the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uninterrupted concentration, absorbed by the activity, forgets time • Cannot be distracted • Alert perception, attention for detail, precision • Constantly addresses all capabilities and possibilities • Strong mental activity: imagination and mental capacity are in top gear. • Gains new and deep-level experiences • Enjoys being totally involved

