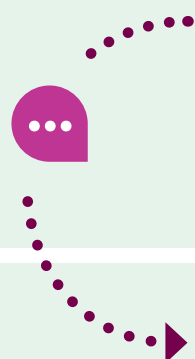
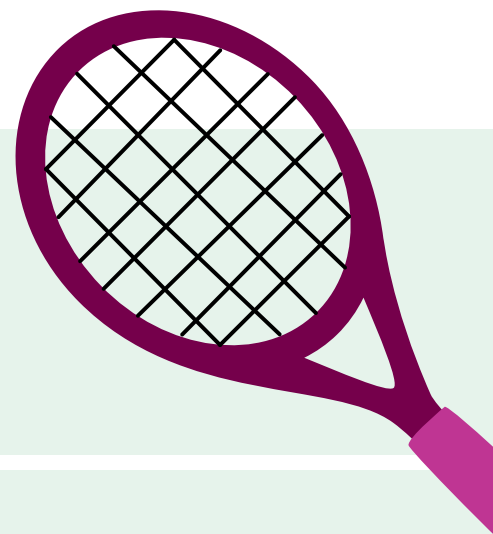


5 Steps to Responsive Interactions

Serve and Return



1. Notice the serve

Share the child's focus of attention. Where are they looking? Are they pointing? Are they making a sound or expression?



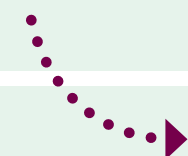
2. Return the serve

Support and encourage the child's expressions. Use verbal and non-verbal responses, including facial expressions, gestures and words.



3. Give it a name!

When you return a serve by naming what a child is seeing or doing, you support development of language connections in their brain and build vocabulary.



4. Take turns... and wait

Give the child a chance to return. This allows the child time to develop their own ideas, confidence and independence. Don't feel pressured to fill silence - let the child take the lead.



5. Practice endings and beginnings

The serve and return cycle ends when the child signals that they are done or ready to move to a new activity.

