

# Sharing Attention

Infants create strong emotional connections with their caregivers through eye gaze.



## MEET THEIR GAZE

Children are curious about people! Around their first birthdays, young children begin engaging in joint attention, sharing interest in objects and events with others.



### TRY THIS!

Read together. Point out characters, animals, scenery, and objects that are new to your child, naming them as you go. Have your child repeat these steps. Point and say, "Look at the tall giraffe! Can you show me the giraffe?"



## FOLLOW ALONG

Children learn more when adults follow their lead. When adults recognize and talk about what interests children, they learn words and new things about the world around them.



### TRY THIS!

When your child gestures or points at something, show an interest in whatever it is that has caught their attention. Turn your head and say, "Oh! Grandma is here!" Point to the sky and say, "The stars are so bright tonight!"



## TURN YOUR ATTENTION

As they enter their second year of life, children begin to follow other people's eye gaze. When children look where another person is looking, they are practicing gaze following.



### TRY THIS!

Use your gaze to communicate with your child. Let your gaze linger on items of interest, allowing your child time to take notice and follow your eyes! If you say, "That bird is a robin!" look at the bird until your child notices.