

SESSION

7

Understanding your child's behaviour Time to have a go: The Dance of Reciprocity

7.19

Thinking about the steps in the Dance of Reciprocity, try to observe an interaction between two people. This could be between you and your child, your partner and your child, or any adult and child. You could do this at home, in the supermarket, in a bus queue or at the park. If you observe strangers you will need to be discreet! More than 30 seconds to 1 minute can sometimes get you noticed.

We are interested in what you notice about the way the two people interact with each other.

- How did the interaction start? Who started it and how did they do it?
- How did each person show they were giving and receiving messages?
- How did each person show they were speeding up and slowing down?
- Who ended the interaction and how did they do it?
- Do you think they were in tune or out of tune with each other?

The seven steps in the Dance of Reciprocity are:

1. Initiation
2. Orientation
3. State of attention
4. Acceleration
5. Peak of excitement
6. Deceleration
7. Turning away/looking away/withdrawal

