

# Experience Sharing

## Descriptions:

- Experience Sharing...has as its focal point, the pleasure derived from specific social encounters as a unique end in itself. (Gutstein, 2000)
- Sharing an experience with other people may give additional content and meaning to an experience and thus deepen one's personal emotional experience. (Plomp et al., 2000)

## Levels of Experience Sharing (Gutstein, 2000)

1. Level 1: Tuning In (Birth)
  - Emotional Attunement: face-to-face emotional sharing with adults is the center of the child's attention.
  - Social Referencing: observing adult facial reactions for approval, safety, and security.
  - Excitement Sharing: deriving primary excitement from parents' introduction of novel stimulation.
  - Simple Games: understanding and enjoying the structure of simple social activities.
2. Level 2: Learning to Dance (Six Months)
  - Frameworks: Enjoys learning the rules, roles and structure of sequenced Experience Sharing activities.
  - Variations add the Spice: adult's introduction of variety becomes the highlight of social activities.
  - Dancing Lessons: participating as a partner in synchronized actions.
  - Moving Together: carefully observing and regulating actions to remain coordinated with a partner.
3. Level 3: Improvising and Co-creating (Twelve Months)
  - Constant Co-variation: enjoying the shared introduction of novelty while engaged in fluid, coordinated actions.
  - Fluid Transitions: enjoying and participating as a partner in chaining activities into a fluid sequence.
  - Improvisation: enjoying activities where partners collaborate to continually modify rules and roles, while maintaining their coordination together.
  - Co-creation: developing new activities, with each partner contributing to the rules and theme equally.
4. Level 4: Sharing Outside Worlds (Eighteen Months)
  - Perception Sharing: enjoying visual and verbal emotion sharing, following the joint perception of an external stimulus.
  - Perspective Taking: actively seeking to compare and contrast perceptions.
  - Unique Reactions: sharing unique reactions becomes a highlight of joint attention experience.
  - Added Imagination: shared addition of imaginative elements to elaborate perceptual events becomes a highlight of the joint attention experience.
5. Level 5: Discovering Inside Worlds (Thirty Months)
  - Sharing Ideas: enjoyment is obtained through the integration of ideas between social partners.
  - Enjoying Differences: excitement is enhanced by different ideas and themes brought into play and conversation by social partners.
  - The Inside and Outside Worlds: viewing internal reactions as different and more important than external reactions.
  - The Primacy of Minds: recognizing that thoughts, feelings and ideas are critical elements of Experience Sharing.
6. Level 6: Binding Selves to Others (Forty-Eight Months)
  - Unique Selves: relating to other people for the purpose of better defining a unique sense of self.
  - Belonging to Groups: membership in varied groups becomes a critical part of identity.
  - Pals and Playmates: appreciating pal-ships on the basis of shared interests, activities and history.
  - Enduring Friendships: valuing close friendships built upon mutual trust and caring.