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.