

Involvement

The Signs of Involvement

Concentration

A child's attention may be focussed on one small area of activity. It is difficult to distract them. (We think that children can also become deeply involved and concentrate when engaging in a social activity with others, such as role play).



Energy

A child puts a lot of effort and enthusiasm into an activity. This can be physically, for example by talking loudly, making grand movements or focusing in on a problem. Psychologically, a child is mentally very active.

Complexity and creativity

Children work to their full capacity, giving their undivided attention and a great deal of care to every aspect of what they are doing. Their play is not routine.

Facial expression and composure

By reading their facial expression and composure, we can see when a child is watching and listening intently, ready to move quickly and completely absorbed in what they are doing.

Persistence

Children who are actively involved do not give up easily. They want to dwell on the feeling of satisfaction that intense activity gives them and they are willing to work at keeping it going. They are not easily tempted away from what they are doing. Involved activity usually lasts a long time and often children will return again and again to the same activity.

Precision

Children who are involved work meticulously. They show a remarkable amount of care for their work.

Reaction time

Children who are involved are alert and readily respond to new things that connect with what they are currently doing. They are motivated to act quickly to take up ideas that are of interest to them.

Verbal expression

Children make comments that indicate their enjoyment and enthusiasm. They put into words what they are experiencing or discovering.

Satisfaction

Children who are involved gain pleasure from what they are doing. They show their satisfaction in their body language and in how they treat what they create.

The Involvement Scale

The scale goes from 1 (uninvolved) to 5 (totally absorbed)

<i>The Involvement Scale</i>	<i>A Description of the Level</i>
1 Uninvolved	Completely uninvolved. Sometimes young children walk away, stare into space or do not interact with the people or play materials
2	Only involved for brief periods. They may be wandering around aimlessly. Sometimes they do things that do not challenge them, so they are not learning anything new
3	Involved some of the time but what they are doing is not very important to them. If you ask them to do something different, they will easily switch to a different activity
4	Involved in something they have chosen, which is important to them. They are not easily distracted yet there are moments when they need a parent's or worker's interest to help keep them involved. (A child can be involved by watching or thinking intently - the eyes show brightness and the body language demonstrates their involvement)
5 Totally absorbed	Deeply involved. They know what they want or need to do. They can choose, continue to be absorbed for long periods and show most of the signs of involvement