## Dyadic Characteristics and Strategies

### What Adults Can Do

#### Set the Stage for Interaction
- Position self & child so that mutual gaze/joint attention are possible
- Provide objects/events appropriate to child’s development & understanding
- Physically support child if needed to allow interaction with others/objects

#### Maintain Child’s Interest and Attention
- Establish yourself as an interesting/interested partner
- Maintain warm, encouraging manner
- Provide clear emotional cues
- Use novelty & exaggeration to capture interest
- Be sensitive & responsive to child’s emotional expression
- Regulate pace in relation to child’s mood and emotional cues
- Recruit child’s attention when unengaged or unfocused
- Introduce new focus or activity when needed

#### Establish Reciprocal Roles (Turn-Taking)
- Respond to child’s initiations
- Establish predictable interaction routines (I take a turn, you take a turn)
- Provide time for child to take a turn
- Let the child know that a response is expected... then wait
- Imitate... then wait

#### Match and Follow
- Observe, interpret and then join the child by matching their focus of attention/interests
- Follow the child’s lead
- Comment on the child’s activities and interests

#### Support/Scaffold Learning
- Elaborate on child’s communicative attempts
- Add new actions/elements to established interaction routines
- Balance support (suggestions, demonstration) with expectations/opportunities for independence
- Pose “dilemmas” for child to solve