

# Getting to Engagement

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# **The Southern California DIR®/Floortime™ Regional Institute**

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circlestretch

Help the child be...

- Calm enough to interact
- Truly connected to others
- In a continuous expanding balanced  
back and forth flow of interaction

*“Go for that gleam in the eye!”*

<http://www.circlestretch.com>

# FEDL Level II

- Warm
- Connected
- Gorgeous
- Etc.
- (right?)

# How can we understand, implement and study engagement?

- It ‘lives’ in the subjective experience of the people involved.
- Hard to score on a video
- Or is it?

# Lady and Cat: is this engagement?



# ‘Objective’ Examples?

(Do you know it when you see it?)

- Lady and cat – but is it one sided?
- Dad and baby – is it true love?
- The ‘best’ movie scenes





# Tuning Into Each Other

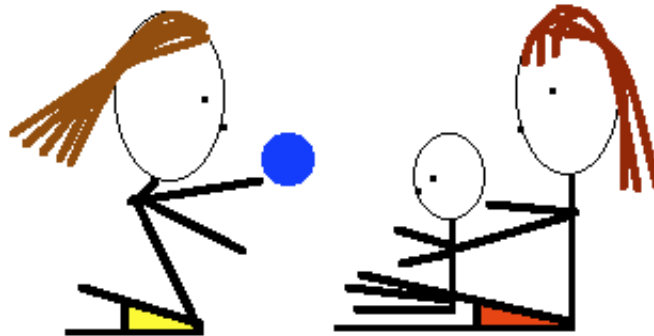
## Customizing Project ImPACT

to address our key community values and reach younger children for the

SoCal BRIDGE Collaborative

# ImPACT

**"ball!"**



# Warmed up...

"00000....."



# Getting at a ‘research definition’

- **BRIDGE: ENGAGEMENT FIDELITY**
- **Engagement: The presence of real time increasingly synchronous interactions that result in shared emotional experience.**
- Understanding the child and parent through the reflective process is essential to engagement.

Objective Elements that might reflect engagement and can be scored on a video: what the

**Evidence of Engagement**  
caregiver does

- Shows sustained interest in child
- Shows warm connection throughout varied feelings
- Establishes synchronous rhythm
- Sustains interaction by modifying rhythm
- Predicts the child's next move
- Seeks mutual proximity
- Consistently reads cues and modifies responses

# How do you know if it's real?

## How do you know if you are really getting it?

- Try this out.
- Video your self.
- Score yourself.
- Remember the feeling you have inside – it is often an undulating combination of in-the-moment-ness comfortably combined with a sense of perspective that allows you to stay steady and not get too swept up in the moment. Think about steering sailboats: you feel the

# Tips from Rosemary White (Courtesy Marilee Burgeson)

- Visual
- Auditory
- Gesture
- Quality of movement/ pacing
- Language
- Emotional Range
- How much are you supporting the parent?

# How Will This Fit Into Research?

- Integrated into Project ImPACT: rigorous video analysis planned
- Relationship to research on Joint Attention
- Relationship to research on Attachment
- Relationship to research on Moment to Moment Interactions and Affect and Repair of Gestural Communication in Infants and Others
- Standardization of definitions for ICDL for research, training, and certification