

- idea. During the rest of the interaction, they should be physically active and vocal.
- This is particularly important when using the technique of **Playful Obstruction**.

What to do When a Child is Visually Self-Involved: 'Knocking on the Door'TM

Most children are interested in visual activities (puzzles, books, blocks, cars, etc.) because of their sensory integration difficulties. Their visual system is being used to such a high degree while not integrating with their auditory and other systems. **They are not able to look and listen at the same time in the presence of these visual objects and activities.** When we attempt to join a child's world by following their lead, we first need to see what they are doing. Next, we approach them, and we are on the doorstep of entering/joining their world. However, simply standing there waiting and observing, or even commenting and narrating, does not mean that this child will know that we're there (at their door).

When you are at the door to their world, how do you encourage and entice them to open it and let you in?

Think about the child's world metaphorically as being their house. If I am going over to a friend's house and I'd like them to let me in, **waiting and observing on their doorstep is probably not going to let them know I'm there.** Typically, a rational human being would ring the doorbell or knock. Both are providing my friend with sensory stimulus (sound) that lets them know I'm there, allowing them to respond. When they see it is me, they usually lock the doors and turn the lights off! 😊 Hopefully not. Hopefully, they come and let me in. However, because of some children's difficulties in engaging and interacting due to the poor integration of various parts of their nervous system, **being able to effectively perceive a simple sound to know that someone is 'knocking on their door' and wanting to come have fun, is not yet a consistent ability of theirs.** Instead, we use the principle of **'Knocking on the Door'** by adding more sensory and emotional stimulation to it!