

# “Spotlight on Joining” — Supporting joint attention in family play therapy for children with short social attention

Denise Galford-Koeppel, PMC, LMHC, RPT™, CEIS

## Background and Questions:

Children with short social attention show minimal progress in Child-Centered Play Therapy (CCPT) and Filial Therapy.

- Can progress in Filial Therapy be accelerated?
- How can the adult best follow the child’s lead?
- Can children with short social attention make gains in about 20 sessions?

## Methodology:

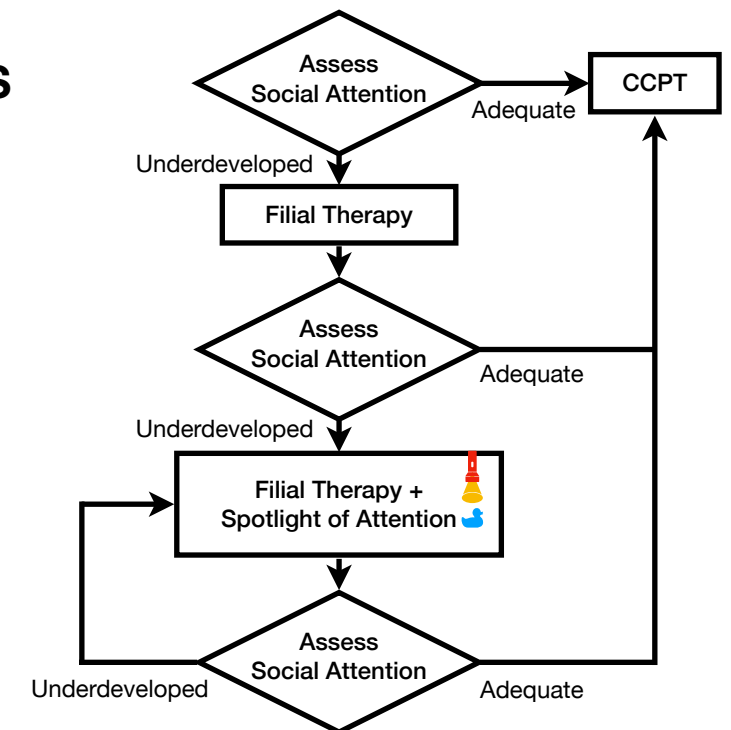
Prescribe Filial Therapy and support caregiver with Help Is In Your Hands: Spotlight of Attention\*

## Levels of engagement of adult and child

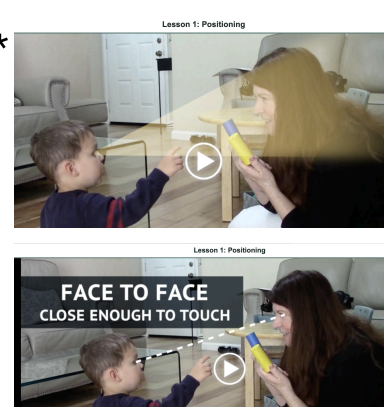
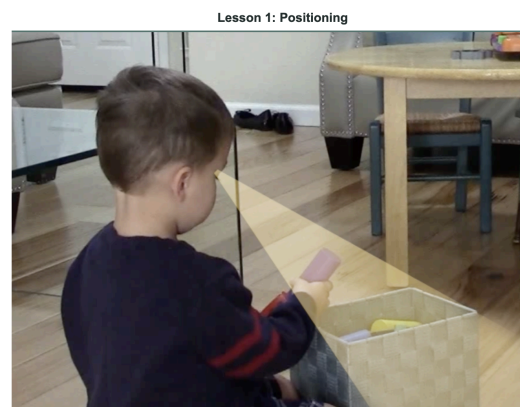
Unengaged in exploration; no joint engagement
Solitary play with materials/ on own agenda; no joint engagement
Object focused play; no joint engagement
Parallel play; fleeting moments of connection to partner
Associative play
Cooperative/socio-dramatic play : Sustained intervals
Cooperative/socio-dramatic play : 40 circles of interaction/1-2 minutes
Cooperative/socio-dramatic play : Several minutes
Cooperative/socio-dramatic play: Most of interaction

Look! Young children (<7y) with short social attention span lack shared and joint attention.

When the play therapist guides the adult to follow the child’s attention spotlight (Rogers & Dawson, 2020), Filial/CPRT Therapy is effective in increasing communication, play, and emotional regulation skills in the child.



Adequate Social Attention	Under developed Social Attention	Spotlight of Attention*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socially connected</li> <li>• Shared attention</li> <li>• Joint attention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child “object focused”</li> <li>• Lacks shared or joint attention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregiver follows child’s attention</li> </ul>



## References

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