

## Hanen Interaction Styles

Can you think of the children who fit in each profile?  
How do you/could you support these children?

**Sociable child**

**Reluctant child**

**Child with own agenda**

**Passive child**



**Sociable child:** initiates interactions constantly and is very responsive to others' initiations. Some sociable children interact freely in any situation, but others are more sociable with their peers than they are with their teachers, or vice versa. If language delayed, the sociable child may be slow to talk or difficult to understand, but this doesn't deter him from interacting with others. However, he may be less socially mature than his peers.

**Reluctant child:** seldom initiates and is often on the outside of group activities and interactions. He may take to 'warm up' and respond to you when you approach him. Given time and opportunities, he will interact with you and other adults, but peer interaction may be more difficult for him. A reluctant child usually responds when others make an effort to interact with him. If language delayed, this child's reluctance to initiate may be related to his language difficulty. He may be reluctant to interact with others because he can't make himself understood or he may not yet have learned to communicate appropriately in social situations. However, a reluctant child usually responds when others make an effort to interact with him.

**The child with own agenda:** spends a lot of time playing alone, appearing uninterested in interaction with adults and peers. He may initiate when he needs something, but he will frequently reject or ignore your efforts to engage him. Typically developing children may go through this independent phase when they want to "do their own thing" However, they still enjoy interacting with others in some social situations.

**Passive child:** seldom initiates or responds, demonstrating little interest in the objects or people around him. It can be hard to elicit a smile from him or to engage him in any sort of playful interaction.