



## “STILL FACE” EXPERIMENT VIDEO REVIEW: FACILITATOR GUIDE

**Engaging interactions** are back-and-forth exchanges that promote children’s positive development. These exchanges occur at every moment of the day and can involve teachers, adults, and peers. The *“Still Face” Experiment* by Edward Tronick, Ph.D. was designed to show how infants benefit from social interactions.

After viewing the *“Still Face” Experiment* video, have participants respond to the questions below. The facilitator may lead a discussion based on the group’s answers and comments.

What did you notice during the mother’s first interactions with her child?	How did the child respond?
<p>What the mother did:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The mother smiles at the child.</li><li>• The mother is at the child’s level.</li><li>• The mother uses a warm tone and gentle touch.</li><li>• The mother looks over to where the child points.</li><li>• The mother tickles the child.</li><li>• The mother plays with the child.</li></ul>	<p>Child’s reaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The child makes eye contact with her mother.</li><li>• The child laughs and smiles back at her mother.</li><li>• The child points to show her mother something.</li></ul>
What did you notice during the “Still Face” experiment?	How did the child respond?
<p>What the mother did:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The mother does not respond for 2 minutes.</li></ul>	<p>Child’s reaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The child smiles to get a response.</li><li>• The child points.</li><li>• The child displays frustration and begins to screech and cry.</li></ul>
How does this video link to children’s experiences in preschool classrooms?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interactions are important to children of <u>all</u> ages.</li><li>• Interactions are important for children across contexts, including home and classrooms.</li><li>• Children who lack engaging social interactions are at a disadvantage compared to those who consistently receive them.</li></ul>	



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What the mother did:	Child’s reaction:

What did you notice during the “Still Face” experiment?	How did the child respond?
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