### Caregiver-Infant Interaction

- From an early age babies socially interact with their carers.
- These are important for the child's development, including attachment.
- Even though babies can't talk, interaction is complex in several ways. Here are 2 of those ways:

#### Reciprocity

- From birth, babies and their mothers spend hours of time interacting.
- From 3 months, interaction is frequent and involves close attention to each other's verbal and facial expressions.
- **Reciprocity** is when an interaction elicits a response from the other person.
- For example, when one person smiles, the other smiles back.

#### Interactional synchrony

- 2 people are said to be synchronised when they carry out the same action simultaneously.
- It happens when a mother and baby interact and their actions mirror one another's.
- Parents and babies develop a shared sense of timing, which further develops into sets of mutual behaviour that occur simultaneously.

### Research supporting reciprocity

- **Tronick** asked mothers to stop moving and maintain an unsmiling expression to their babies.
- Babies tried to tempt the mother into interaction and became increasingly distressed when the mother didn't smile back.
- This supports the idea of reciprocity as the babies expected their mother to reciprocate them.

### Research supporting interaction synchrony

- **Isabella** observed 30 mothers and infants together and assessed the degree of synchrony.
- They also assessed the quality of attachment in their relationship.
- They found that high levels of synchrony were associated with better...