

Early Childhood

PLAY

Types of Play

Social Building Blocks



How to help your child increase his/her play skills

Onlooker Behavior

Playing passively by watching or conversing with other children engaged in play activities.

Facilitating Parallel Play

1. Move defined play areas closer together.
2. Removed excess furniture and toys to encourage using the same play space.
3. Position child's body toward other children and engage in the materials yourself. Slowly encourage your child to engage.

Parallel Play

Playing, even in the middle of a group, while remaining engrossed in one's own activity. Children playing parallel to each other sometimes use each other's toys, but always maintain their independence.



1. Set up the environment to share materials
2. Help your child introduce themselves.
3. Draw attention to nonverbal cues and body language.
4. Encourage kids to swap toys.

Facilitating Associative Play

Cooperative Play

When children organize themselves into roles with specific goals in mind (e.g., to assign the roles of doctor, nurse, and patient and play hospital.



Facilitating Cooperative Play

1. Set up the environment
2. Role play and use scripts
3. Narrate the situation
4. Comment and draw connections
5. Use social stories as needed
6. Use nondescript toys/objects to encourage imaginative play.

Associative Play

When children share materials and talk to each other, but do not coordinate play objectives or interests.

