

- Understand what your child enjoys
 - Use a special interest or favorite character when developing a play activity, this will help keep your child engaged and make it more fun.
- Existing play skills
 - Does your child already engage in parallel play (playing next to others, but not together), associative play (limited interactions with others while playing) or cooperative play (interacting with others while playing)? You can build on the skills your child has already mastered. This will be a sequential process, so make sure to reinforce your child for any progress that is made (no matter how big or small).
- Make play a family activity
 - A major benefit of play is learning to interact socially with others, so try to have other family members in the household engage in play with your child (i.e. siblings, parents, grandparents, etc.). Siblings can be a great example for how to play appropriately.
- Change up activities often
 - Allow your child to switch up activities (after a reasonable amount of time), as keeping your child engaged in a non-preferred activity for an extended period of time may lead to more problem behaviors. Gradually increase the duration of activities as your child progresses.
- Pick one skill to work on at a time
 - While you may notice many areas that your child may have difficulty, try to pick one skill to work on (reference Social Group post for suggested daily focus) – as picking too many skills can overwhelm your child. Some examples of skills to work on include sharing, taking turns, requesting a toy/help, gaining attention of others appropriately, responding appropriately to peers, following rules, etc.

Ideas for play activities:

- Blocks/Legos/Lincoln Logs/Playdough
 - Assist your child in building with the toys, providing verbal and/or physical prompts when necessary. Create a story to go along with what you have built (ex: three little pigs and big bad wolf), help your child act out the story and follow your child's lead as the story progresses.
- Play Kitchen
 - If you have a pretend kitchen, encourage your child to cook something for you (prompting as necessary). Once the food is ready, sit down and pretend to eat together – you can even have some stuffed animals join you.
- Board Game
 - Playing a board game is great for working on taking turns, sharing materials, follow the rules and eventually good sportsmanship. Also, it can be a fun family activity. You can adapt the rules and expectations of the games based on your child's abilities (i.e. if your child is working on taking turns, then more advanced skills like following all rules would not be as important).

- Playing with a ball
 - Using a ball (i.e. soccer ball, kickball, etc.) can be helpful in working on many play skills. Some skills can include taking turns, sharing, and following directions (i.e. throw ball, catch ball, kick ball, etc.). You can make it as simple as rolling a ball back and forth, or as complicated as a game of kickball with the family – or anywhere in between.

This chart lists a few common play activities and the level of play required to participate:

	Parallel Play	Associative Play	Cooperative Play
Blocks/Legos/Playdough	X	X	X
Board Games		X	X
Dress Up	X	X	X
Duck, Duck, Goose		X	X
Hide and Seek			X
Marco Polo		X	X
Musical Chairs		X	X
Play with a Ball	X	X	X
Red Light/Green Light	X	X	X
Red Rover			X
Simon Says	X	X	X
Tag			X
Toy Kitchen	X	X	X

The most important thing to remember with play skills, is that it should be a fun experience for everyone involved. This is a great time to get in some tickles, hugs and laughs with your child.

	Solitary Play	Parallel Play	Associative Play	Cooperative Play
Broken Telephone (down the line)		√	√	√
"20 Questions"-who, what, where		√	√	√
I went to the store and bought...		√	√	√
Hungry Hippo	√		√	√
Candyland				√
Monopoly Jr.			√	√
Trouble			√	√
Barnyard Bingo			√	√
Dominoes	√	√	√	√
Memory	√	√	√	√
Blue's clues	√	√	√	√
Connect Four	√	√	√	√
Simon Says			√	√
Guess Who?			√	√
Pop up pirate	√		√	√
Sorry			√	√
Chicken Cha Cha Cha			√	√
Don't break the Ice			√	√
Don't wake Daddy			√	√
Hi Ho! Cherry-O			√	√
Mouse Trap			√	√
Snakes and Ladders/Chutes and Ladders			√	√
Card Games	√	√	√	√
Tinker toys	√	√	√	√
Lego sets	√	√	√	√
Car/Train sets	√	√	√	√
Baby dolls/figurines	√	√	√	√
Doctor kits	√	√	√	√
Toy kitchens	√	√	√	√
Tool benches	√	√	√	√
Dress up	√	√	√	√
Play dough	√	√	√	√
Puppets	√	√	√	√
Mr. Potato Head	√	√	√	√

	Solitary Play	Parallel Play	Associative Play	Cooperative Play
Marco Polo			√	√
Twister			√	√
Ring around the rosie			√	√
London Bridges			√	√
Follow the Leader			√	√
Air Hockey			√	√
Tic Tac Toe			√	√
Ball play	√	√	√	√
Water play	√	√	√	√
Sand play	√	√	√	
Finger painting	√	√	√	
Drawing	√	√		
Rock paper scissors				√