

# Stages of Social Play

## Play with adults

- Very young infants – birth – 10 months.
- Basic interactions between babies and adults – smiles, coos, peek-a-boo.
- Interactions are usually repetitious.

## Solitary Play

- Between the ages of 10 months – 18 months.
- Egocentric – play does not involve other children.
- Still learning to co-ordinate behaviours for interactive play.
- Needs adult support to ensure continuation of play.
- Children may watch the play of other children.

## Parallel Play

- Usually observed in the play of toddlers (18 months – 2 ½ years).
- Child will play along side other children with little exchange of materials or conversation.
- Children like being near each other but are not ready for co-ordinated interactions.

## Associative Play

- Begins at 2 ½ years to 3 years of age.
- Children begin to like playing in groups that are involved in the same activity.
- Children watch one another and imitate actions of peers.
- Not yet able to work together with other children.

## Cooperative Play

- Begins at 3 years to 5 years of age.
- Simple back and forth play of two children.
- Begin to take turns.
- Interactive skills are developing.
- Learning to play together.

## Sensorimotor Play

- Explores objects using their senses – sight, smell, sound, touch, taste.

## Constructive Play

- Uses material to make or build things.

## Dramatic Play

- Uses objects to pretend.
- Use of imagination.

## Games with Rules

- Games are played with shared rules.

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