

SOCIAL STAGES OF PLAY

Unoccupied Play



The random movements that Infants make with no clear purpose is the beginning of play.

Solitary Play



When children start to play on their own. Children do not seem to notice other children sitting or playing nearby during this type of play

Onlooker Play



When children watch others play. The child who is looking may ask questions but there is no effort to join the play.

Parallel Play



When children begins to play side-by-side with other children without any interaction. They are paying attention to each other.

Associative Play



When children start asking questions of each other. They have similar goals but there are no set rules.

Social Play



When children begin to share ideas and toys, and follow established rules and guidelines.

16 Play Types

Symbolic Play

Using objects, or actions to represent other objects, actions, or ideas, e.g. using a cardboard tube like a telescope.

Rough and Tumble Play

Discovering physical flexibility, generally friendly and positive.

Socio-Dramatic Play

When children act out experiences, e.g. playing house

Creative Play

Allows children to explore, try out new ideas and use their imagination.



Social Play

Any social situation where it's expected that everyone will follow the set rules - like during a game

Communication Play

Play using words, gestures e.g. charades, telling jokes, play acting, etc.

Dramatic Play

Play where children figure out roles to play, assign them and then act them out.

Locomotor Play

Movement for movement's sake, just because it's fun. Things like chase, tag, hide and seek and tree climbing



Imaginative Play

play where the conventional rules, which govern the physical world, do not apply, like imagining you are a bee, or pretending you have wings.

Exploratory Play

using senses of smell, touch and even taste to explore and discover the texture and function of things around them

Fantasy Play

child's imagination gets to run wild and they get to play out things that are that are unlikely to occur, like being a pilot or driving a car.

Deep Play

Play which allows the child to encounter risky experiences and conquer fear like heights, snakes, and creepy crawlies



Mastery Play

control of the physical and affective ingredients of the environments, like digging holes or constructing shelters.

Object Play

play which uses sequences of hand-eye manipulations and movements, like using a paintbrush.



Role Play

play exploring ways of being, although not normally of an intense nature, like brushing with a broom, dialing with a telephone..



Recapitulative Play

play that allows the child to explore ancestry, history, rituals, stories, rhymes, fire and darkness.

Social Skills

You can practice and MODEL at home!

- Play with your child and MODEL everything.
- Set up playdates with friends and kids of the same age.
- Teach “I,m Sorry” and “Are you okay?”
- Catch your child being kind or respectful to others and explain what he/ she was doing.
- Model and teach manners and politeness.
- Model taking turns & showing patience at home.
- Role play problem solving through different scenarios with stuffed animals:
What should you do if...
 - Your friend is playing with someone else
 - You win a game or lose a game!
 - You and your friend want to do different activities
 - You get frustrated with your friend or a situation
- Model and practice having a back and forth conversation with friends
- Play board games (teaches taking turns and respectful game play)
- Model always speaking kindly to other adults yourself!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Have ANOTHER playdate :)

