

Different Kinds of Play

Early Play

Bubbles

Sit opposite your child and blow bubbles.

Wait for eye contact or a vocalisation before you blow any more.



Coloured Feathers

Blow feathers at your child and tickle them with the feathers.

Balloons

Blow up balloons and let your child feel the air coming out.

Build anticipation as you let them go.



Exploratory Play

Collect items such as:



Spoons, shiny paper, cellophane, ribbons, bricks, plates, tissue paper, newspaper, empty pots. Put the materials in boxes or drawstring bags and take out one at a time to explore. Crumple up the bits of paper to make interesting noises. Bang things together and take them in and out of empty pots with lids on.

Hiding Games

Wave a scarf up and down over your child so that they can feel the breeze. Lift it high and let it fall over your head. Encourage your child to pull it off your head. Cover a toy with the scarf and encourage your child to pull it off.

Soft Bricks or Beach Balls

Play games of throw and catch with balls or fabric bricks. Blow up the beach balls and let your child feel the air coming out.

Bouncing, Swinging and Rocking

Bounce your child up and down on your lap or play swinging and rocking games in the air or on the floor.



Boxes

Collect boxes for your child to climb in and out of. Make a house from a large box and cut out a door for your child to crawl through. Boxes can become boats, trains, cars or anything your child wants.

Symbolic Play

You can use:

Cups, Spoons, Brushes, Combs, Hats, Bags,
Dressing up clothes, Tea-sets.

Show how to pretend to:

- ⇒ Make cups of tea and sandwiches - let your child take pretend cups of tea to everyone in the family!
- ⇒ Brush and comb hair
- ⇒ Get dressed up
- ⇒ Go shopping etc.



Expensive toys are not always necessary. Different coloured plastic aerosol tops can be collected to make cups. Paper plates and catalogue cut outs of food are just as interesting as the real thing.

Imaginative Play

- ⇒ Using dolls or teddies, pretend to dress them, feed them and wash them. Make a pretend bed from a cardboard box. Take them for a walk in a toy pram or pushchair.
- ⇒ Act out school routines- your child can pretend to be the teacher reading a story to the children.
- ⇒ Play at hospitals: make beds from shoeboxes and put bandages or plasters on the dolls and teddies.