

Group Activities

As your child grows older they will move from playing alongside others to playing with them.

This development can be encouraged using the following ideas.

Task completion:

Use inset puzzles, simple lottos, shape sorters and stacking toys – children take turns to put a piece in or on.



Copying:

Do a large colouring game - stick paper all over the table top, have crayons and create, going up/down, round and round and so on. Use musical instruments to copy beats and rhythms.

Circle games:

Give instructions to the children for example:

- ready steady....jump, run, clap, stamp!
- touch yournose, hair, knees, toes,
- musical statues (stop when music stops)
- run to...table, chair, door, teddy and so on...

Symbolic play ideas:

Show the children how to play with these toys, making up every day situations...

Large toys: play dough and cutters, tea set, teddy/dolly and cup, brush, bed, potty, bath etc.

Miniatures: dolls' house, farm, airport, fire station, cars, 'little people'

Threading: pass a string around the group, each take turns to put on a bead.

Pass the box: place a selection of objects in a lidded box. Pass the box round the group and when you say 'stop' the child holding the box opens it and names one of the object inside.

More Symbolic play ideas:

Roll a ball: roll to each other, either on the floor or sitting at the table.

Beanbags: each child has a beanbag and takes turns to run, jump, hop etc. and put their beanbag in the box.

Feely bag: each child takes turns to take an object out of the bag and say what it is. They then use the object on teddy/dolly e.g. brush, cup, bed, flannel, apple, book

What's gone?

Put 5-10 familiar objects on the table or floor. Cover them with a cloth and remove one object.

When you take the cloth away, the children tell you which object is missing.

Picture/object matching: the child throws a beanbag onto a picture of an object then finds the real objects to match it.

Hiding: take turns to hide objects/pictures around the room. The children look for the objects/pictures and then say what they have found.

Cooking: Make a sandwich, make toast, make instant whip, ice biscuits.

