Better Parenting

Your Name - Here Comes the Ball!

Call a friend's name, wait for "Here," and pass the ball.

Helps Your Child Grow



Relationships with Other Children

Calling a familiar peer's name, waiting for a response, and passing the ball gives your child practice following the shared pattern of a turn-taking game.

Steps

- When a familiar friend visits, invite the children and adults into a name-and-ball game.
- Sit in a small circle with a light, soft ball.
- Let the adults demonstrate. One person calls another player's name; that player answers, "Here!" and receives the ball.
- If your child throws before naming someone, quietly supply the name and invite them to try saying it on the next turn.
- If naming remains difficult, call the recipient yourself and let your child focus on sending the ball to that person.
- Encourage the children to pass to one another. Offer a quick reminder if someone forgets to answer when their name is called.

Tips

- The ball may often leave the circle. If constant retrieving interrupts the game, stand in a looser group and keep passing.
- After the visit, talk briefly about what your child played and how it felt to be with the other child.

Observations

- ○ Calls another child's name and sends the ball toward them
- ○ Answers "Here!" after hearing their name