



Build a Train Set Together 2

Build a circular train track with another child. Begin with side-by-side play, then look for simple opportunities to share materials and solve a construction problem together.

Helps Your Child Grow



Relationships with Other Children

Sharing track pieces and helping with a joint build gives your child practice moving from side-by-side play toward playing together.



Reasoning and Problem-Solving

Testing, reasoning about, and planning how to connect the track gives your child practice solving a construction problem with a partner.



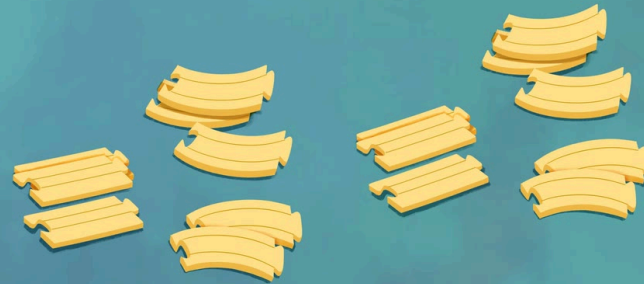
Train Set



Train Station



Splitting Pieces



Straight and Curved Pieces
(equally divided)

What You'll Need

1. A train set with a station and track pieces. Divide the track pieces into two equal groups before play



Make Space for a Small Conflict

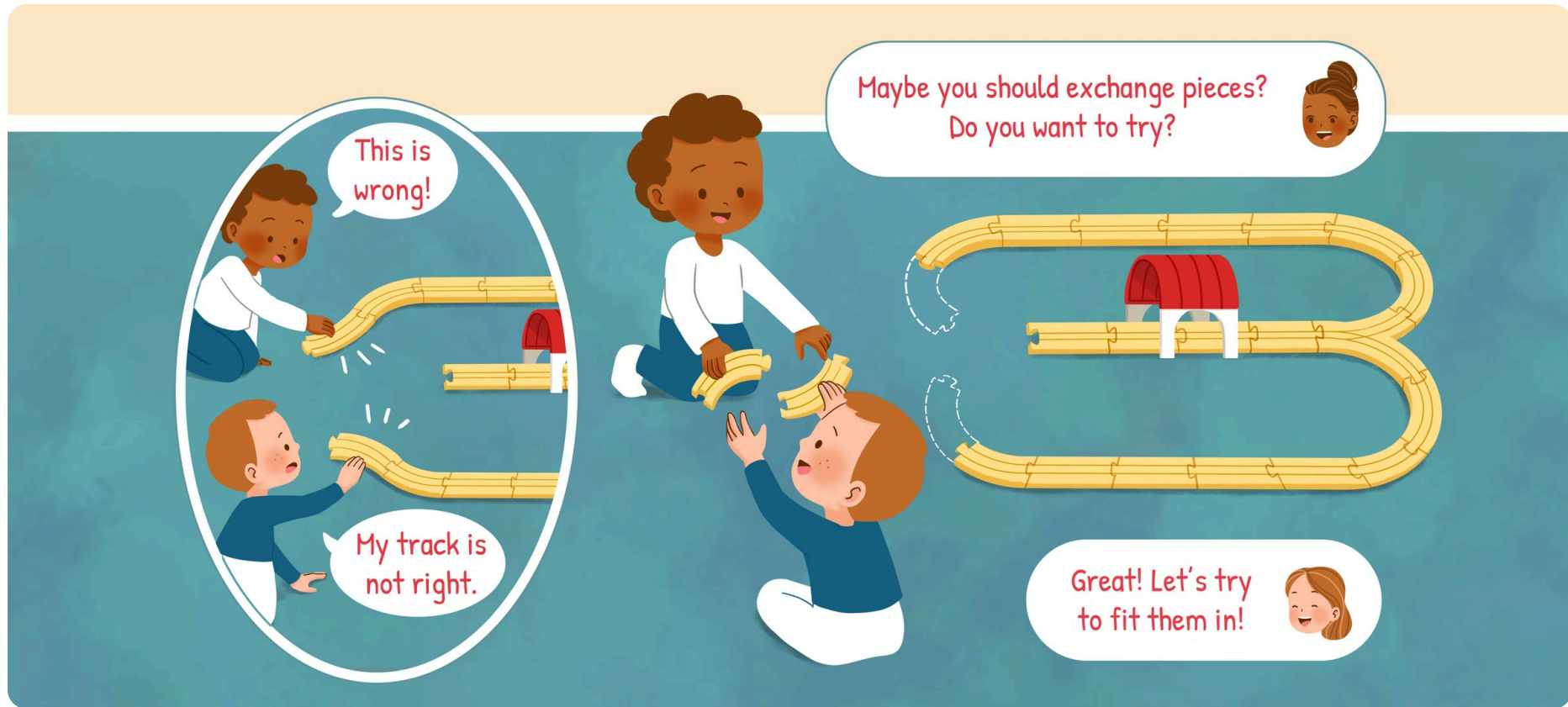
Invite the children to build a circular track together. If sharing becomes difficult, help each child continue with a separate group of pieces for a while. This keeps the play going while their emotions settle.

Observations

- Builds a block track with another child
- Accepts your suggestion and adjusts what they are doing

Tips

- Draw attention to an alternative piece: “Could this split track work? It lets the train go in two directions.”
- Children this age may not yet negotiate with words. Returning briefly to side-by-side play can create room to approach each other again later.



Try Working Together

Watch for a problem that requires both children, such as joining their two track sections. Describe the problem, offer one simple cue, and invite them to try together.

Observations

- Tries more than one way to solve a problem while building the track
- Trades materials with a partner to connect the track

Tips

- Name a helpful action: “You gave your friend the track piece they needed. The station is almost connected!”
- Moving closer, handing over a piece, or copying the other child can all become openings for simple cooperation.
- A small successful exchange can make a longer shared activity easier the next time.
- If the children are unsure how to cooperate, model one simple action such as trading pieces.



Working Together Helps

After the children have some experience working together, reduce your help. Describe the problem without giving the solution, then wait while they think and try.

Observations

- Rotates or reverses a track piece while trying to connect it
- Works with a peer to think of a way to solve a problem

Tips

- Praise the cooperation itself: "You found a way together," or, "The train can go because both of you helped."
- Repeated experiences of working together, succeeding, and receiving specific encouragement can help your child connect playing with others with feeling happy, safe, and included.
- After the problem is solved, acknowledge the action that made the joint solution possible.