



It's More Fun to Play Together

Try simple games that make it easier to join another child.

Helps Your Child Grow



Relationships with Other Children

Playing several simple games beside another child gives your child experience noticing a peer, joining shared play, and responding during an early peer interaction.



Initiative and Curiosity

A game connected to your child's interests gives them a motivating reason to approach, join, and continue an activity with a peer.

Steps

- When you meet another child at a park or play area, a simple shared activity can make it easier to begin playing together.
- If there is sand, help the children dig a hole or build a sand structure. Offer simple ways to cooperate, such as one child digging while the other brings a tool.
- With a ball, begin by rolling or kicking it between the children. You can also make a small goal and take turns shooting.
- Near a safe hiding place, try a simple hide-and-seek game: one person looks while the others hide.
- You can also use nearby toys for pretend play, such as an ice-cream shop on a bench or drivers and passengers with toy cars.

Tips

- For many 24-month-olds, "Go play with the other children" is too large a social step. Observe quietly together first, then move closer or join when your child appears ready.

Observations

- ☐ Joins a game with another child
- ☐ Shows that they want a favorite game to continue