

Playing with Your Child!



Why is this so important?

When your child is learning how to play, we want to teach them how to play with not only different toys, but how to play with one toy in different ways! Children use play to build new skills, to practice skills that they already know, to be creative and learn new ways of doing things, and to practice social skills. Therefore, the more toys they know how to play with, and the more ways they know how to play with a toy, the more your child will learn!

1.

Set-Up (Getting Started)

Shows you what your child finds motivating!

- Provide your child with a choice of activity/toys.
- Offer toys that have multiple pieces so you can play together.
- While playing, watch and see what your child is motivated by.

For example, look for cues that show you that they're having fun (E.g., watching, smiling, doing similar actions over and over).

Once your child shows interest, move onto the theme.



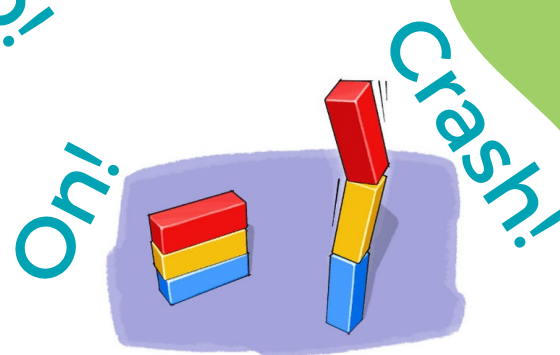
2.

Theme (What are They Doing?)

Allows your child to practice the skills that they already have!

- What is the action, or the group of actions, that your child is doing with the object when they first start playing?
- Stacking blocks into a tower - "on," or "crash!"
- Squigs - "stick," or "pull!"
- Pop Beads - "push," or "pop."

Once you and your child have taken a few turns doing the same or similar actions, move onto variations/elaborations.



3.

Variations/Elaborations (How to Change Play)

Allows your child to learn new skills!

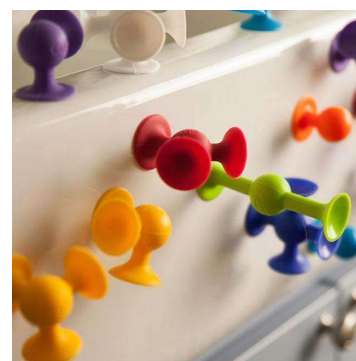
Variations: Change what you are doing with the materials you already have.

- Blocks - stacking, building a bridge, crashing them down
- Squigs - sticking together, sticking to other surfaces,
- Pop beads - pushing them together in a line, making necklaces

Elaborations: Add in additional materials to your play.

- Blocks - crashing with a car or ball, having the car go under or over the bridge

When you or your child start to become bored, when the activity starts becoming too repetitive, or when you have run out of ideas on how to teach your child within this particular activity, move into closing.



4.

Closing

(Ending the Activity)

Helps your child learn how to end an activity appropriately!

Encourage your child to help you clean up! Have empty bins/bags ready! Have your child clean up a few pieces while you clean up the rest. This is a perfect time to transition into a new toy or activity.

Start these steps again!



Additional Tips and Tricks:
Always remember to label yours and your child's actions with clear, short and simple language!



More examples on pages 132-134.