

Playing with other children

Some children need adult support and guidance to play with other children. In everyday situations some toys lend themselves more naturally to joining in with play and playing together.

Items that lend themselves to play include;

- Large play equipment such as trampolines
- Exchange toys such as balls
- Constructive toys
- Pretend play toys
- Colouring sheets / large mural paper with several mark making equipment

How the adult can help

1. Stay with the children to provide support for all of the children e.g. helping the child to play with the other children as well as giving the other children simple explanations of how your child plays
2. Demonstrate to a playmate a 'People game' you have played lots of times with your child e.g. playing chase. Explain to the playmate what they might say and do to allow your child to join in
3. Give children a job they must do together to be successful e.g. making chocolate milk- one pours the milk and the other puts the chocolate into the cup
4. If your child is using language, teach them appropriate ways to join in with others e.g. 'Can I play?', 'Is it my turn?'
5. If your child is using gestures show them what to do e.g. tap the child's arm that they are trying to get the attention of and then tell the child to do the same
6. Be sure to fade in and out depending on the level of support that the child needs i.e. be prepared to take the step back when the children are engaging in interactions

If you require any further support or information then please do not hesitate to contact your Speech and Language Therapist.

Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Team

Salford Royal Foundation Trust