

Different Stages of Play (Key)

Complete chart below by defining the stages of play and then determine the age at which each type of play occurs. You will write ways parents/caregivers can help a child with physical, cognitive, social or emotional development at each stage of play. Write a summary sentence below.

Stages of Play	Definition	Age at Which This Type of Play Occurs	Ways Adults May Help with Development
Solitary Play	A child plays alone with toys. The child makes no attempts to play with other children or adults nearby.	Up to 18 months of age	Adults should provide toys that the infant can easily handle alone. Teaching strategies should include hide and go seek games, classification games, reading books, imitation and pretend games, and verbal games. These activities encourage language development.
Parallel Play	Parallel play is next in the sequence. The child plays beside, but not with, nearby children. Some children watch others as they play. Other children may not pay attention to children who are nearby. In this stage, children are more interested in their toys than in other children.	By about eighteen months of age	Teaching strategies should include hide and go seek games, classification games, reading books, imitation and pretend games, and verbal games. These activities encourage language development.
Associative Play	Associative play occurs when children begin to participate in games or activities together. For the first time, an increased interest in peers (other children of approximately the same age) is noticed. Children at this age often share toys.	Most children reach this stage about the age of three or four years.	Some materials that encourage associative play are building blocks, art projects that involve more than one child, and musical instruments. Activities should also encourage some positive, sharing interactions

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

			<p>with others.</p> <p>Play with toddlers. Observe safety and appropriateness of materials and the play area. The objective is that it develops flexibility and encourages use of large motor skills.</p> <p>Make up rhymes and songs to which toddlers can clap, dance, and sing along. This helps toddlers develop rhythm and balance.</p>
<p>Cooperative Play</p>	<p>This type of play is seen in the games the younger children play, such as red rover and tug of war. Cooperative play also is involved when older children participate in baseball, soccer, or other organized team sports. In these events, children work together to compete against another team. Cooperative play also is encouraged by some computer games, jacks, and yard games.</p> <p>Some children use all forms of play by adding one onto the others as they develop. Other children may stop using one form of play when the form in the next stage develops and replaces it.</p>	<p>Cooperative play is the form most often seen in middle childhood (ages five and up).</p>	<p>Parents can enroll their child in cooperative sports and play games with them.</p> <p>Play is how children learn. It is the natural way for them to explore, to become creative, to learn to make up and tell stories and to develop social skills. Play also helps children learn to solve problems. For example, if his or her wagon tips over, the child must figure out how to get it upright again. When they stack up blocks, children learn about colors, numbers, geometry, shapes and balance. Playing with others helps children learn how to negotiate.</p>

Summary Sentence: _____