

Supporting your Child's Play skills

Where your child is?	How to help them?	What this involves?
On their own agenda Appearing unaware of others Limited attention	Intensive interaction Joint attention/Curiosity Programme Attention Autism	Mirroring their actions and sounds- commenting Finding a motivating activity/resource and trying to engage your child with them Pausing and creating anticipation
Not knowing you to play with toys	Modelling play Identi-play	Show how to use a cause and effect toy, how to make a sandcastle Having two sets of toys and a brief script to narrate it.
Limited and repetitive play	Choice Boards Modelling pretend play Use timers	Photos of 2/3 activities that they could engage in Set up play and extend it by modelling- e.g. making food and feeding the baby Going to the shops in the car
Finding it difficult to play with others	Have one other child play alongside with resources in a tray. Encouraging them to give/swap resources Taking turns with an adult Taking turns with an adult and a child Being part of small group and waiting for a turn	Reduced adult intervention as you move through the stages Use simple short and motivating games with clear endings
Finding it difficult to initiate play and on the periphery all the time	Teach them play phrases as an 'in' to start play	For e.g. come play, play with me Model in the first instance and go with the child to ask until they become more confident

Try and follow their lead, reduce your language and stay rooted in the room/activity so they can come back to you.

Don't ask too many questions- comment and label instead.