

HOW TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO PLAY WITH OTHERS

Once your child has a range of play skills or is beginning to play and take notice of others, you can help them to play and learn how to interact with others.

Simple nursery games are good ways to build social interaction as well as turn-taking games e.g. peekaboo and “pat a cake” – these are both social games.

Tickling games can also help children to anticipate what is coming next, and encourage eye contact e.g. ‘round and round the garden’, ‘this little piggy went to market’

How to support your child to play/interact with others:

- Visit people who have children the same age as your child
- Ask the child’s siblings or other children to show your child how to play e.g. take turns. At first it may help if the children copy your child’s behaviour, e.g. running up and down the garden.
- Teach child how to join in by demonstrating how to take turns, copy their actions or give them the toy to play with.