

DEVELOPING SOCIAL PLAY

Some children prefer to play on their own as they may not want to engage with others and may push them away.

How to join in with your child's play:

- Sit next to child and play with same thing – you can have the same toy and play in the same way as he/she is (mirroring their ideas and actions).
- Hopefully, your child may be aware that you're doing this – they may then start to look at you.
- If he/she looks at you, respond by saying something.

- Once you are at this stage, you can try and share a toy.
- Introduce turn-taking by using click-clack tracks/building a tower and taking turns to put each brick on
- Praise the child for allowing you to play next to them by smiling and giving spoken praise e.g. "well done, good playing."

- You could then become more interactive in the way that you play e.g. you could roll a ball and ask them to roll it back

- Gradually, add another child or adult into play and encourage them to interact together. Reward any attempt the child makes to interact with someone else.