

Speech and Language Therapy

Joining in Your Child's Play

How does your child play?

Take some time to watch your child play. If they play with toys and objects, what are their favourites? Children do not always use toys in the way we expect. If they are safe, this is fine. Join in with what they are doing, the way they are doing it, to keep things fun. If your child is having fun, they are more likely to learn.

Activities

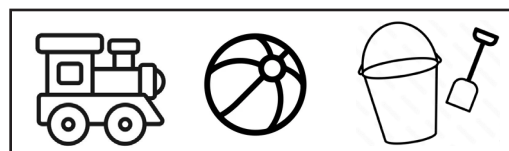
Ways you can join in with your child:

- **Talk about what they are doing.** Name what they are playing with and talk about what is happening. If they are playing with cars you could say: 'car', 'here's the red car', 'the car is fast', 'beep beep'. Use simple words and sounds.
- **Copy their play.** Do what they are doing. If your child will get upset if you use their toys, use different toys but play in the same way. For example, if they are stacking bricks, use a different set of bricks or toys but stack in the same way. If their tower falls, make your tower fall too. You can also copy your child's sounds.
- **Give them the next thing they need.** For example, if they are building with bricks, hand them another brick to use without holding it back.
- **Turn their play into a simple game.** For example, if they are rolling cars off a table, put a bowl on the floor for the cars to roll into.

Important: You can change how you join in with your child's play depending on what they are doing. For example, if they are building a tower, they might like you to pass them the next brick. But if they are playing with cars, they might not want you to touch them. **That's okay.** Notice what your child likes in different activities. Sitting close by and talking about what they are doing still counts as joining in.

Remember:

- Keep language simple
- Match words and sounds to the play
- Join in and play your child's way



Try it at home: choose one of the ways to join in listed above. Note whether the way you join in is different for each activity you try joining in with.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Children's Therapies
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If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

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برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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