

# DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY

## Interactions with Peers

NOTE: These stages are not mutually exclusive. A child may use various forms and combinations of these stages throughout the day. The ages given are guidelines; not all children will be in each stage at the ages given.

### 1. Solitary Independent Play

The child plays alone with toys different from those used by other children; although the child may be within speaking distance, there is no attempt at verbal communication with the peer group. The child is centered on his or her own activity. This is very typical play for three-year-olds and can sometimes be observed in all ages.

### 2. Parallel Play

The child plays independently but among other children. The child plays with toys that are similar to those the other children are using. In short, the child plays beside rather than with other children. This is also typical of three-year-olds.

### 3. Associative Play

The child plays with other children. The children are borrowing or following each other with playthings. All engage in similar if not identical activity. There is no division of labor and no organization of the activity. Common in three and a half to four year olds.

### 4. Cooperative Play

The child plays in a group that is organized for making some material product, striving to attain some competitive goal, dramatizing situations of adult or group life, or playing formal games. There is a division of labor, a sense of belonging, and an organization in which the efforts of one child are supplemented by those of another. Often apparent in play of four and five year olds who organize themselves into a group.

### 5. Rule Making Play

The children begin making rules for their play: who is allowed to do what, who will play which roles, etc.