

# The Development of Play

## Age by Age

Here's a look at how children's play progresses from playing side by side to playing interactively.

0  
to  
2



- \* like to look at other babies.
- \* love the company of other children.
- \* laugh at the antics of siblings.
- \* join in activities which are centered around them.
- \* engage in parallel play, offering toys but not playing together with other children.

2  
to  
3



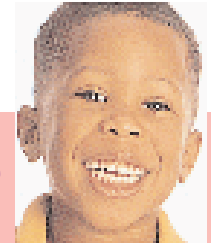
- \* begin to play with other children.
- \* enjoy simple games.
- \* squabble and fight with others.
- \* not share toys and can become possessive and uncooperative.
- \* increasingly converse with other children.
- \* still not be able to play with others if they have had little social experience.

3  
to  
4



- \* play more complex and interesting games.
- \* form stronger friendships.
- \* tease and taunt siblings.
- \* make and break friendships easily.
- \* copy other children.
- \* not switch easily between pretend and reality.

4  
to  
6



- \* firm up friendships as they reach school age.
- \* become more independent, not all doing the same thing at the same time.
- \* take on separate roles in complex games.
- \* explain games to other children.
- \* describe other children as "best friends."
- \* indicate to others when to "pretend" and when something is "real."