

Types of Play for Children

Solitary Play-Children play alone. They watch and enjoy the activity of others, but do not play together.

Parallel Play- Children play side by side with very little exchange of materials or conversation. The activities of the children are likely to be unrelated. They could be in the same area with similar materials, but not exchanging ideas or conversations.

Associative Play- Children play in a group that is involved in the same activity. The children tend to watch each other and to imitate the actions of their peers, but verbal exchanges are limited. They may borrow ideas or materials from each other, but they do not work together in order to create.

Cooperative Play-All the children involved are taking part in the same activity. They coordinate their actions, deciding what to play and what roles to take.

Socio-dramatic play

Play with objects and play with people overlap. The word *socio-dramatic play* is used to describe two types of play-dramatic and cooperative coming together. It is the highest level of play because it requires the combination of social and dramatic play skills. It requires these components:

- Imitative play role
- Make-believe in regard to objects
- Make-believe in regard to actions and situations
- Interaction
- Verbal communication
- Persistence