

## Can play with other children

For children to understand their own feelings and those of others they benefit from strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults. With adult support they will be able to make good friendships, cooperate with others and resolve conflict.

### Typical development

3 to 4 year olds will be learning to:	Plays with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas
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### How can practitioners support children to play with other children their own age?

- Consider if you are consistent in your approach with all children, do adults follow through on requests to share an object or activity?
- Do you involve children in making decisions about their environment and activities?
- Do you have activities and resources to support children's' interests?
- Do you notice children who find it difficult to play, and join their play alongside other children?
- Do you give children opportunities to choose their friends for activities?
- Are children provided with activities where they understand the expectations of the game?

### Activity ideas/resources

- Model with clear language how to initiate an interaction e.g. 'Let's play', 'I would like a turn with ...'
- Follow through with sand timers so that the next child also has a go.
- You could use other visuals to support children to independently take their turn, using photographs of children to put on a timeline while they are waiting.
- Adults to play alongside children and introduce other children to the activity.
- Consider asking curious questions to parents to find out about how the child plays at home with parents and other children in the family or community.
- Think about mixing up group times to provide children with opportunities to interact with wider group children.

### Useful links

A variety of resources on the Anna Freud website - <https://www.annafreud.org/early-years>

Gloucestershire speech and language website - <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/childrens-slt/>

Resources on the GOV EYFS website - <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/>