

Sensational Toddler/Preschooler OT Tip of the Month Play

Do you know toddlers/preschoolers that...

1. Tend to play with the same toys and materials?
2. Tend to play alone rather than with peers?
3. Get easily frustrated during play – leading to outbursts or aggression?

These children may have difficulty with this complex occupation of childhood we call “play”.

Sensational Ideas for play...

1. Help a child succeed at play cooperatively with an adult then add one peer into the play experience.
2. Play next to a child with a similar toy or materials to model new ways to engage in play. Celebrate coming up with new ideas for play even if it seems to be a small change.
3. Practice a game that other children like to play first so the child is familiar with the motor skills and rules of game, then coach during the group play.
4. Encourage imaginative, open ended play using his/her familiar themes or characters in the play. Provide some props to help expand this theme with the child.

A good read:

Beyond Behavior Management: The Six Life Skills Children Need by Jenna Bilmes

For your families:

<http://www.aota.org/>

[/media/Corporate/Files/Practice/Children/Browse/Play/Building%20Play%20Skills%20Tip%20Sheet%20Final.pdf](http://www.aota.org/media/Corporate/Files/Practice/Children/Browse/Play/Building%20Play%20Skills%20Tip%20Sheet%20Final.pdf)

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