



## HELLO PARENTS,

Participating in cooperative play helps children to develop skills they will need later to collaborate and work together with others in various social settings. Cooperative play allows children to interact with others, express their thoughts, and try out new ideas. It also promotes social growth and sharing. Children who engage in collaborative play work together to reach a common goal. In this newsletter, we provide activities that will encourage your child to engage in games that require cooperation.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

#### ROW YOUR BOAT

##### MATERIALS:

- [Click here](#) to listen to the song "Row Your Boat"

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child on the floor facing each other.
- Hold your child's hands and pull gently back and forth as you sing the song "Row Your Boat".
- Continue singing the song by changing the word "gently" to "quickly", "bumpily" or "slowly".
- Make actions to the words when you sing. For example, row very fast when you use the word "quickly".

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### PUPPET DANCE

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper or Band-Aid
- Scissors
- Pen

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Make finger puppets with your child.
- Cut a small piece of paper or a Band-Aid and roll it around your child's finger.
- Help your child draw a face and hair on it.
- Make some puppets for yourself, too.
- Start the music, do a silly dance together and have fun.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### AIRPLANE GAME

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Try to play this game with your friends or family members.
- One player will be the "airplane", one will be the "navigator", and the rest of the players are "trees".
- In an open area, ask the "trees" to spread out and stand still.
- The player who is the "airplane" will be blindfolded.
- The "navigator" will give directions, one at a time, to get the "airplane" across the runway without crashing into a "tree".

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### MOTHER, MAY I?

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Line up all players in a row on the starting line.
- The player who is "Mother" stands away from the players facing them.
- "Mother" will call a player by their name and give instructions so that the player can move forward. For example, "Sarah, take two giant steps forward."
- The player who is called on must say, "Mother, may I?"
- If "Mother" responds "Yes", the player can take the steps forward. If "Mother" says "No", the player does not move.
- If the player makes a move and forgets to ask, "Mother, may I?", then they must go back to the starting line.
- "Mother" can instruct players to take different number and different kinds of steps each time. For example: big steps, baby steps, regular steps, hopping steps, etc.
- The first player to reach "Mother", wins!
- To play this game, the more players the better.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### SNEAK A PEEK GAME

##### MATERIALS:

- Lego blocks or building blocks
- Scarf

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Build a small sculpture with Lego blocks or building blocks and keep it covered from all the players.
- Each player is given enough blocks to duplicate the structure.
- The players will take turns viewing the sculpture closely for 10 seconds, trying to memorize it.
- Once the player returns to their place, they can start building their own sculpture.
- After one minute of trying to recreate it, each player can take another sneak peek of the sculpture and continue building.
- The game continues until one of the players successfully recreates the original structure.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



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#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Encourage your child to take turns with others, share toys and games, and ensure everyone gets a fair turn as using a piece of equipment.
- Let your child do chores and tasks at home, such as tidying up or setting a table for a meal.
- Be a role model and practise kindness and empathy with your child.
- Give your child enough time to play. Having the freedom to engage in unstructured play is a great way for your child to interact with others and make their own fun.