

# 10 Types of Play

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Type of Play	Importance
 <b>Unoccupied Play</b>	Unoccupied play presents as a child engaging in random movements with no objective. This type of play sets the stage for future exploration.
 <b>Solitary (Independent) Play</b>	Solitary play is when a child plays alone. It teaches a child how to keep himself entertained and paves the way for self-sufficiency.
 <b>Onlooker Play</b>	Onlooker play is when a child observes another child's play. By observing, a child works on developing speech and imitation skills.
 <b>Parallel Play</b>	Parallel play is when two children are playing side-by-side. They often learn social niceties and mimic the others' behaviors.
 <b>Associative Play</b>	Children play separately from one another, but are involved in what others are doing. For example, they are building houses with blocks. This play helps with socialization, problem solving, cooperation, and language development.
 <b>Cooperative Play</b>	Cooperative play is when children start playing together. They incorporate learned social skills and cooperation. Cooperative play is the foundation to future interactions as children mature.
 <b>Dramatic/ Fantasy Play</b>	Children dress up and let their imagination go wild. They learn to take turns, cooperate with others, and work on language development. Role playing helps children learn about functioning in the greater community.
 <b>Competitive Play</b>	Competitive play helps children learn about rules and turn taking, and how they function on part of a team.
 <b>Physical Play</b>	Physical play involves children being active. This helps children develop gross (large movements) and fine (small movements) motor skills.
 <b>Constructive Play</b>	Constructive play teaches children how to build, manipulate, and fit things together. This helps develop their motor and cognitive skills.