

# The 6 Stages of Play

## Unoccupied Play

**0-3 months**

When baby is making movements with their arms, legs, hands, feet, etc. They are learning about and discovering how their body moves.



## Solitary Play

**0-2 years**

When a child plays alone and are not interested in playing with others quite yet.



## Spectator / Onlooker Behaviour

**2 years**

When a child watches and observes other children playing but will not play with them.



## Parallel Play

**2+ years**

When a child plays alongside or near to others but does not play with them.



## Associate Play

**3-4 years**

When a child starts to interact with others during play, but there is not much cooperation required.  
*For example, kids playing on the playground but doing different things.*



## Cooperative Play

**4+ years**

When a child plays with others and has interest in both the activity and other children involved in playing.

