

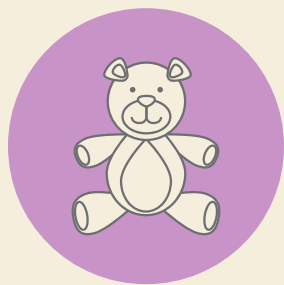
SOCIAL STAGES OF PLAY

Adapted from Parten's Stages of Play

SOLITARY PLAY

Children start to play on their own. They do not seem to notice other children sitting or playing nearby.

Age: 0-2 years



ONLOOKER PLAY

Children watch others play. They may ask questions but the child does not make an effort to join the play or does not know how to play.

Age: various ages

PARALLEL PLAY

Children begin to play side-by-side with other children without any interaction. They are paying attention to each other and often engaged in the same activity.

Age: 2-3 years



ASSOCIATIVE PLAY

Children are interested in the people playing but not in coordinating or organizing the activity together. There is interaction and children may ask questions of each other but they are not playing with each other.

Age: 3 1/2 - 4 1/2 years

COOPERATIVE PLAY

Children begin to share ideas and toys, and follow established rules and guidelines. They are interested in both the people playing and the activity they are doing.

Age: 4-5 years

