


# A Practical Guide to Understanding Cooperative Play in young children

## What is cooperative play?



Cooperative play is when two or more children are playing together with common materials and a common goal. Children also have assigned roles.

## Why is cooperative play important?

- Children learn to communicate with others
- Provides an environment for children to collaborate and work effectively towards a common goal



Begins in the late preschool years and continues with adult support

## How does cooperative play support children's development?

Cooperative play promotes the development of:

- cooperation,
- confidence,
- more complex play,
- effective communication,
- empathy,
- problem solving,

and much more!

## How can adults support cooperative play?

- Provide age appropriate toys children can play with together
- Ensure the toys can be easily shared (ex: multiple parts, roles)
- Provide games that involve working towards a common goal (ex: a puzzle)
- Rotate toys to keep the experience new and fun for children
- Join in play with children. Ask questions and support problem solving

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