

# Translating Research for Practice

## Improving Play Skills in Children with Disabilities

Barton et al. 2020



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# Object Play



## What is the purpose?

The authors of this paper reviewed different methods for educators, caregivers, and therapists to teach object play skills to young children.

Object play is a child's interaction with toys or other items.

## Who received instruction?

Object play skills were taught to typically developing children and children with disabilities.



## Where did teaching take place?

Inclusive classroom settings, therapy rooms, self-contained classrooms, and in participant homes.



# Key Findings



Adult modeling and systematic prompting can be used to improve object play for children with disabilities.



Incorporating the same toys or items in different settings may make children more likely to engage in object play.



# Take Aways



Play skills may differ across a variety of children and children with disabilities may need to be directly taught play skills.

## STRATEGIES FOR ALL KIDS

- Including opportunities for pretend play in the classroom
- Teaching children functional ways to use toys
- Implementing opportunities for children to express themselves through play

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Teachers can model pretend play (building block towers, playing house) during small group activities.
- Teachers can use prompts to encourage object play by allowing children to respond independently, modeling the correct action, or physically guiding them.



# Citation

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