

Group Play Tips for Toddlers

- Have a lot of toys available! Two year olds will not know how to share. So be prepared to demonstrate sharing and turn taking.
- Use toys that kids can play with at once like a water table, sand box, an assortment of cars & trucks, castles with action figures and lots of play animals work well.
- Generate interest in toys by playing with them yourself. Add your own sound effects and talk about the cool things happening.
- Kids need help learning how to extend play so show different ways to play with one item. Car with building blocks; build road to drive one, build a bridge or garage. Have a car wash in the bathtub or sink. Drive cars over different surfaces outside and talk about smooth & bumpy.
- If they kids fight over a toy, try substituting another toy or redirecting.
- Use an egg timer to help with turn taking. Set it for 5 minutes. When the bell rings..time to trade. Praise your child for sharing.
- If your child is slow to interact in group play, it's OK. Some kids need to watch in order to warm up. Plus, observation helps children learn what is expected.