



Social Communication: Social Interaction 5 [SI5]

Child expands games and routines

Purpose

- To help your child interact socially in lots of different ways by playing games and doing activities with several different people (e.g., you, siblings, grandparents, other caregivers).
- For your child to be able to take part in games in different ways—for example, be able to start a game as well as to join in a game that you start, or be able to chase you as well as to run when you chase him/her.

Description

This occurs when the child expands familiar games and routines in different ways such as switching roles, including different people, adding a new step or element, or using new materials. Expansion of games or routines shows that the child is beginning to generalize social interaction skills to different people, settings, materials, or actions.

- Child switches roles during tag by chasing others instead of being chased.
- Child plays the tickle game with a different person, e.g., a different parent, a different staff person, siblings, or peers.
- Child expands peek-a-boo by making a funny face after exposing his/her face.
- Child hides a toy under a bowl instead of hiding it under a blanket.



Activities

- *Outside or Playtime:* Ring-around-the-Rosie - Begin a game of Ring-around-the-Rosie then have another person join in the song and dance.
- *At the Park:* Encourage your child to push you (or another child/person) on a swing. You could also try a chasing game. First chase and catch your child. Then change the game and run away from your child, looking back and encouraging your child to chase and catch you. Make it easy for your child to succeed in catching you and make the game fun by giving your child a hug or a swing or a tickle when one person catches the other.
- *Outside - playing chase:* When playing chase with your child, try to switch roles. If you are chasing your child, run away and try to encourage your child to chase you.
- *Peek-a-boo or tickle games:* If you are using a blanket to play peek-a-boo with your child, stop playing and hand him or her the blanket to see if he or she might take on the role that you just were playing (i.e. hide under the blanket).

Strategies

- *Expand to show your child the next developmental step* – model for your child the next related step of an activity in which you are engaged (for example pushing cars side-by-side could become pushing a car back-and-forth)
- *Take on your child's role in an activity* – when playing a social game, do what your child was doing and encourage him/her to do what you were doing
- *Keep your child for one more turn than usual* – encourage your child to remain involved in an activity a little longer than the previous time

Suggested Toys

- Transportation toys
- Ball
- Puppets
- Toy foods
- Grooming toys

Goal Mastery

An ASAP Goal is mastered if your child meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Shows the skill at least three times
- Shows the skill during different activities or in different settings such as during snack time, during playtime, or at the grocery store.
- Shows the skill with minimal help or support from an adult

