

# Other things to try: 7c

## Playing socially in groups

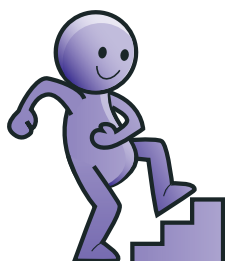


### Why is this important?

Playing in groups is important as children can learn new skills from observing other children. It also helps them develop social skills such as turn-taking, eye contact and making friends. This all forms part of social and emotional aspects of learning and it is vital that strong foundations are laid early in this area.

### What to do

- Try one of the following activities:
  - ★ A pretend tea-party with each child having a toy.
  - ★ Play shops where one child is the shopkeeper and the others buy food.
  - ★ Chase or playground games (e.g. 'What's the Time, Mr Wolf?', 'Oranges and Lemons' or 'Stuck in the Mud').
  - ★ Ball games (e.g. 'Piggy in the Middle').
  - ★ Dressing up or puppet theatres.
  - ★ 'Hide and Seek'.
  - ★ Race games (e.g. three-legged races, obstacle races, relay races).



### Step up

- Use more children.
- Use games with more rules.
- Use more formal games (e.g. skipping games, board games).

### Step down

- Make sure children know what to do. Perhaps play alongside them first and then remove yourself gradually.
- Start with fewer children.
- Use games without rules.
- Structure social play very closely to facilitate interaction in a pair first.

