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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**5.3 Learning to play with a friend**

**Why is this important?  
Social play is an important part of children learning to become sociable and  
develop friendships (i.e. realising that they are not alone in their  
environment – there are other people with feelings, needs and wants too!).  
Children increase in communicative confidence as new skills are practised  
by watching and playing with others in a relatively safe/familiar  
environment. Social play is key to social and emotional development.**

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What to do  
• Engage two children in identical play at a table or on the floor. Activities could be  
drawing, sticking, puzzles.  
• Build a tower where both children have some bricks and take turns to put one on  
the tower. Start by guiding the activity and slowly move away to enable the children to continue.  
• Equipment that requires two children (e.g. see-saws/double swings) are useful, as are toys that require ‘help’ (e.g. pushing each other in a car).  
• Play hide-and-seek or ball games.**