

# TIME TO PLAY!

Here are some tips to keep in mind when playing with your child (remember, there are **NO RULES** when it comes to play).



## Provide your own sensory effects!

Encourage your child to make fun sounds when they play with their toys, like "beep-beep" for a car, "choo-choo" for a train, or "BANG" with a toy hammer. This helps them learn new words. If they aren't ready to make the sounds, you can do it for them!



## Share your child's interest!

Let your child choose toys for play and follow their lead. This shows them that their choices are important! Make sure they can see your face and hands while you play. **YOU** are your child's best teacher - they learn a lot from watching your facial expressions and how you play with toys.



## There are many ways to play!

Children learn in many ways—by using their hands, eyes, and even putting things in their mouths. While many people think of toys when they hear "play," BUT it can happen all day long. Peek-a-boo, a fun chase, or tossing clothes in the laundry basket can all be playful moments.



## Have FUN!

Play should be fun and something you share! If it's not, think about why?!? Maybe it's not the right time, or the toy is too hard and your child is frustrated, or it's too easy and your child is getting bored. Find a time in your day when play is FUN for everyone.

Playful interactions between parents and children create opportunities for bonding, learning, and joy. Through play, children not only discover the world around them, but they also feel safe, loved, and connected.

