

## Everyday experiences

# Getting along with others

Children build positive relationships and learn how to get along with others through play and everyday situations. By working with and considering others, being fair, taking turns and sharing, children learn how to communicate, negotiate and deal with conflict. As children develop attitudes and beliefs from an early age, it's important for them to be able to explore similarities and differences among people, their abilities, and different cultures.

### Ways for your child to play and mix with others

- Encourage family members to join in play with your child.
- Invite another child/friend over to visit. Talk with your child before the visit about what they would like to play with their friend, and which toys they would like to share. Encourage your child to think about what their friend might like to do when they visit.
- Take your child to a playground or community event where other children play.
- Encourage your child to take part in sport or other activities in your community.
- Encourage your child to join in simple turn-taking games (e.g. a card game or board game).
- Share and take turns with your child during everyday experiences.

### Support your child to manage and resolve conflict

- Show and explain to your child what they can do or say to help them deal with conflict in a positive way (e.g. *Let's talk about the problem with Michael. What can you do, if you both want the same toy/a turn? What could you say to Jack, if you would like a turn next?*).
- Help your child to 'name' their feelings and talk with others about how they are feeling (e.g. *Use your words to tell me/tell Evie about what is making you feel sad/upset/angry.*).
- Help your child to think about other people's ideas/feelings/needs and talk with others (e.g. *Listen as*

*Matthew tells you how he feels and how he thinks the boat can be made. Now you can tell Matthew how you feel and what your ideas are. How can you make the boat, so you are both happy?.*

### Helping your child to get along with others

#### Starting/entering play

- Encourage your child to show that they want to join in playing with others (e.g. smile, stand near the person, pick up another toy and talk to the other child).
- Talk with your child and ask questions to help them begin a game with others (e.g. *Who will you play with? How can you tell them you would like to play/join in? What words could you say to let Molly know she can join in?*).

#### Taking part in play

- Encourage your child to talk and listen to others (e.g. suggest who they/another child could 'be' in a pretend game or take on an idea someone suggests).



- Prompt your child to suggest ideas/ways that they can share their ideas/use materials with others (e.g. *How will you work with Justine to build with the blocks?*).
- Encourage your child to take turns (e.g. *Whose turn is it next? Now that you've had a turn, it's time for Lily to have her turn.*).

### Considering others

- Talk with your child about how others might be feeling and ways to show concern for others (e.g. *Harry is feeling sad because he hurt his knee. Let's ask Harry if he is okay.*).
- Show your child ways to help others (e.g. *Let's help Noah to carry some toys to the table.*).
- Talk with your child about what is a fair or unfair way to act (e.g. *Is it fair if you have two turns and Sarah has one? How can you share the playdough so that everyone has a piece?*).

### Respecting others

- Talk with your child about similarities and differences in appearance, language, dress, ability and beliefs (e.g. *Yes, Sharleetti sometimes wears a sari for a special event. She also wears clothes like you.*).
- Encourage your child to take part in activities and games in roles that are typically thought of as male/female roles (e.g. *pretend to be a 'mechanic'/'hairstylist', role-play being a nurse, try out a sport they see boys/girls play on TV*).

- Focus your child's attention on what people can do (e.g. *Liam moves easily with the scooter board and he climbs really well because he has strong arms.*).
- Challenge thinking and actions that limit options (e.g. *I know a boy who is a dancer. Your Grandma likes to bushwalk. Your Dad is a good cook.*).

## Fun outdoors

Joining in family activities gives children important social skills. Below are some suggestions.

### Family races

#### What you need

- A bean bag for each family member (You can make bean bags by filling old socks with rice/beans/sand.)

#### What to do

1. Players stand together in a line (with bean bags balanced on their heads).
2. One person starts the race by calling out: *Ready, set, go!*
3. Players walk to the finish line while balancing their bean bag on their head.
4. Try other ways to race to the finish line (e.g. jumping/running/crawling).



## Family obstacle course

### What you need

- Obstacles such as chairs, ropes, tables, tyres and boxes

### What to do

1. Collect items/materials to use for the obstacle course.
2. Encourage your child to set up the obstacle course with family members, and work together to decide where to position obstacles.
3. Take turns to decide on a path to follow along the obstacle course and where to begin and finish (e.g. start at the tree, walk around the tree, step over the rock, crawl through the chair ‘tunnel’ and balance along the rope).
4. One person follows the obstacle course at a time.

## Family picnic

### What you need

- Picnic blanket/table and chairs
- Serving plates/cups
- Food/drinks

### What to do

1. Choose the best spot for the family picnic (e.g. in the backyard, at a park) and invite family members to come along.
2. Talk about what foods and drinks family members would like to share.
3. Pack items for the family picnic (e.g. food, plates, blanket).
4. Encourage your child to help family members set up for the picnic.

## What’s the time Mr Wolf?

### What to do:

1. One person is ‘Mr/Mrs Wolf’ and stands at the end of the open space, away from the other players. ‘Mr Wolf’ has their back to the other players.
2. The other players stand, facing ‘Mr Wolf’ and ask: *What’s the time, Mr Wolf?* Each time they ask, they take one or more steps towards ‘Mr Wolf’.
3. Each time the other players ask ‘Mr Wolf’ the time, he turns around and says a time (e.g. *two o’clock, twelve o’clock*). He then turns his back to the players again.
4. As the players get closer, ‘Mr Wolf’ can choose when to say: *Dinner time!* When ‘Mr Wolf’ says *Dinner time*, he chases the other players to try to catch them before they get back to where they started.
5. When a player is caught by ‘Mr Wolf’, they become ‘Mr Wolf’ for the next game. Players can swap turns being ‘Mr or Mrs Wolf’ for the next game.

## Suggestions for other outdoor family activities

- Bike riding
- Cricket
- Duck duck goose
- Frisbee
- Gardening
- Hide and seek
- Hopscotch
- Pretend camping
- Skipping
- Skittles
- Soccer
- Treasure hunt
- Visit the local park
- Wet sponge toss

## Supporting your child as they join in family activities

- Remember to put on sunscreen and wear a wide brimmed hat.
- Help your child to find a large outdoor space with plenty of room for family members to move around.
- Encourage your child to help set up the area and collect materials needed.
- Decide on the rules together, before the game begins (e.g. *Only use your feet to touch the ball. If the ball goes between the chairs, it is a goal. The batter can’t get out on the first ball. There are ‘magic fielders’ where a chair, hose or tree is a ‘fielder’.*).
- Encourage your child to cooperate with family members and take turns.

## Games to play with others

Playing with other children helps your child learn ways to build positive relationships and important social skills. Following are some examples of games your child can play with others.

### Memory card game

#### What you need

- A set of eight or more pairs of picture cards (e.g. make a set of matching cards with photocopied family photos)
- Two players

### What to do

1. Mix the cards and place them face down on the floor/ table.
2. A player begins the game by turning over two cards, showing the pictures for all players to see.
3. If the two cards match, the player keeps the cards. If the cards do not match, the player turns them over, leaving them where they found them.
4. The second player has a turn.
5. Players take turns to turn over the cards until all of the matching pairs have been found.
6. Count how many pairs each player has.

## Pretend bakery/shop

### What you need

- Playdough
- Table
- Two players

### What to do

1. Players share the playdough.
2. Players decide what they will make for their bakery/ shop (e.g. cakes/sausages/apples).
3. Both players work together to make playdough items and display them on the table.
4. One player pretends to be the 'customer' and chooses items from the display.
5. The second player pretends to be the 'shop keeper' and gives the items to the other player.
6. Players take turns to pretend to be the 'customer' and 'shop keeper'. Share out the playdough items to each player fairly.

## Balloon play

### What you need

- One balloon
- Two players
- Small bat/newspaper rolled up
- Rope/string/chairs/chalk

### What to do

1. Set up the rope/string/chairs or draw with chalk to define a 'line' in the centre. Players stand on either side of the 'line'.
2. One player bats the balloon as hard as they can to the other player, over the line.
3. The second player bats the balloon back to the first player.
4. Players take turns batting the balloon to each other. Try to keep the balloon in the air for three, four, five or more hits.

## Building with blocks

### What you need

- Building/construction blocks
- Two players

### What to do

1. A player begins the game by choosing one block to place on the floor.
2. The second player has their turn and stacks another block on top of the first block.
3. Both players continue to take turns to stack the blocks until they have built a tower.
4. Players can work together to hold the tower steady as each block is stacked. Try to make the highest tower or use all of the blocks.

### Supporting your child as they play with others

- Talk about/explain the rules and how to play fairly (e.g. take turns and wait for a turn).
- Encourage your child to take turns and wait for a turn, to help others (e.g. someone younger or who is learning the game), and to speak positively (e.g. *Your turn! Great you got a pair! Oh well, let's make another tower.*).



For further information, visit [www.qld.gov.au/kindy](http://www.qld.gov.au/kindy)

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only, and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.