

PLAYFULNESS BY AGE



PLAYFULNESS IN YOUNG BABIES

-

0-6 MONTHS

- Reflexive imitation of facial expressions
- Preference for human faces-lots of gazing
- Focus on objects with light and dark contrast
- Prefer speech above environmental sounds
- Enjoys looking at mobile
- Reach out, grasp, mouth, shake and bang (4m)
- Anticipate everyday routines/familiar games
- Enjoy vocal and facial expressions during interaction with caregivers

PLAYFULNESS IN BABIES

-

6-12 MONTHS

- Love peekaboo games as object permanence has now developed
- Takes objects in and out of containers, opens and closes doors-this is the development of early play schemas
- Start interacting with photographs of faces in a book (from about 10 months) e.g. pat, feed, kiss
- Relates objects to each other-stirring spoon in cup
- Actions in simple play routines e.g. waving bye bye, kissing goodnight

PLAYFULNESS BY AGE



PLAYFULNESS IN TODDLERS

–

12-18 MONTHS

- Real objects are used according to their function e.g. sweeping floor
- Acts on self (e.g. pretending to drink)
- De-centered (15 months); begins to pretend on others
- Early pretend play on objects (once they already pretend on people) e.g. feeding dolly, putting teddy to sleep
- Begin to take turns with adults in vocal play
- Play becomes more sequenced with 3 steps
- Self-pretend play (14-15 months)

PLAYFULNESS IN TODDLERS

–

18-24 MONTHS

- Object transformation-substitute objects in pretend play e.g. using a block as a car or as a brush
- Actions on dolls and other people become increasingly sequenced. E.g. pours water into a cup, gives baby a drink, wipes its mouth
- Sequences become less linear e.g. the same doll has a number of actions before moving to the next
- Transition from larger objects to small world play figures
- Play alongside other children but not with them
- Exploration of physical world
- Use words to talk directly to the play object

PLAYFULNESS BY AGE



PLAYFULNESS IN TODDLERS

-
2-2 1/2 YEARS

- Pretend to be another agent e.g. doll or teddy
- Act out short sequences of familiar everyday activities
- Start some role play-but stick to themes familiar to them
- Ask for multiple repetitions of favorite stories
- Play sequences become more complex

PLAYFULNESS IN TODDLERS

-
2 1/2-3 YEARS

- Role play less familiar themes
- Use words to describe pretend worlds or scenarios
- Talk through toys
- Play sequence follows logical order

PLAYFULNESS BY AGE



PLAYFULNESS IN CHILDREN

-
3-4 YEARS

- Take on themes beyond own personal experiences
- Play cooperatively with other children using language
- Negotiates roles
- May have an imaginary friend who could persist until age 7
- Fantasy role play
- Dresses up in imaginative play
- Use voices for the characters to reflect age, gender, or characteristics

PLAYFULNESS IN TODDLERS

-
4-5 YEARS

- Create miniature worlds with their rich toys rich in narrative and story structure
- Share miniature worlds cooperatively with other children
- Spontaneously take turns and share with peers
- Negotiate to resolve arguments
- Increased use of emotion based language and schemas in play
- Reliably judge "fact" vs "fiction"
- Play complex board games needing literacy/number skills