



Clinician Play Stages Worksheet

Talking points:

This worksheet will help us determine what stages and types of play your child is currently engaging in when they start their Chat program. You can also use this as a guide throughout treatment as your child moves through the play stages. Knowing the type(s) of play your child engages in will help me coach you to play with your child. As the parent, you will then be able to join your child's play more efficiently, and then you'll both be able to implement the strategies of Chat effectively.

Instructions:

The first step in using this worksheet is to observe the child playing to see what types of play they are engaging in. This can be done by video or direct observation or by parent report. Many children engage in more than one type of play so you may check more than one. Once you determine the type(s) of play the child is engaging in, you'll be able to see what stage of play the child is in. This may help explain certain play behaviors for some families, such as when a child prefers to play alone versus involving their parents. For others it may then make sense why their child isn't using pretend play yet, such as if their child is only two years old. For most families, it will be a guide you use together to monitor their child's play development so the parents can join with their child in the most effective, and FUN, way.

Descriptions	What it might look like	Observed	Reported	Notes
Exploratory Play				
Children play with toys by exploring with their senses such as touching, mouthing, visually examining, smelling, banging, throwing, and dropping the toy or object.	• Putting hands, objects in their mouths • Banging objects together, clapping hands • Looking at toys from various angles • Dropping, throwing toys/objects			
Combinatorial Play				
Children combine toys together by nesting one object in another, putting objects in containers, lining, stacking, or ordering toys in certain ways.				



Descriptions	What it might look like	Observed	Reported	Notes
Cause and Effect				
Cause and effect play teach children that their actions can cause something to happen.	• Dumping out toys • Pushing buttons or switches • Dropping food or toys on the floor for adults to pick up			
Functional Play				
Children using most common toys or objects to their appropriately functions.	• Rolling a ball • Pushing a car or train • Stacking or building with blocks • Puzzles			
Self-Directed Pretend Play				
Children direct some basic pretend play action towards themselves. <i>Sometimes called open-ended play.</i>	• Feeding a doll • Making a cape out of a sheet and "flying" around the house			
Other Directed Pretend Play				
Children direct basic pretend play towards another person or other toys.	• Child pretends to listen to your heartbeat for a checkup • Child pretends to feed you something • Child pretends to pour something in a cup and have you drink it			
Pretend Play				
Children to use objects, actions, or ideas to represent other objects, actions, or ideas as play.	• General category of pretend play			
Complex Pretend Play				
Children link several pretend actions together to tell an extended story with toys.	• Building a city with Legos and having the trains and cars go from one place to another • Feeding a baby doll, taking her for a stroller ride, then putting her to bed			