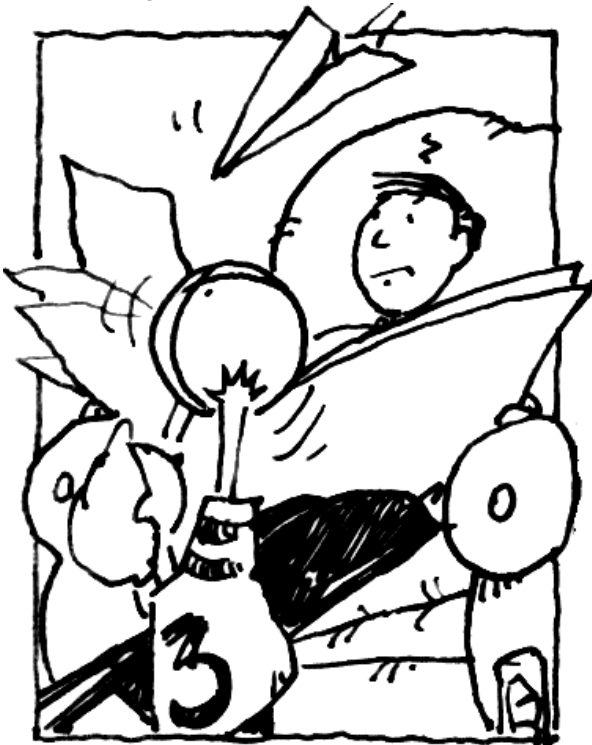


Let's Play!

I enjoy playing by myself. I really like playing with other children too. But *I like playing with you the best*. When I don't get to play with you I feel lonely and unimportant. I start wondering how I can get you to play with me again.



What I Want You to Know

Children don't play with me the same way you do. I love it when you are willing to sit on the floor and build a block tower with me. I like it when we wrestle and tickle each other too. One of the most important things you can do to *help me grow up to be a good person* is to *spend fun time with me*.

I know you are very busy. There are many things that you want to do. You also feed me, bathe me, and wash my clothes. But I want you to play with me too. *Play brings our two worlds together*.

Here's How You Can Help Me

Some people say playing with children is a waste of time. But you're helping

me grow and learn! That's important!
*When you take time for me, I learn
how to be with people.* I can't learn
that from my toys!

A couple times each day, *ask me if I
want to play.* It doesn't have to be for
very long. Tell me stories or read me
books. I also love building things,
taking walks, and making snacks with
you.

When I come looking for you, *be
willing to spend a few minutes playing
with me.* Even if you are in the middle
of something else, maybe it could wait.
I may want to show you the picture I

drew, the book I want you to read to
me, or the neat tower I built.

Even helping you with some of your
jobs is fun to me. *I could help you get
dinner ready, set the table, plant
flowers, or dust the furniture.*

When I come to find you, sometimes it
means I'm bored or lonely. I'm ready
for some one-on-one time with you. If
I don't seem to have an activity in
mind, help me out. Maybe you could
suggest that we make things with play
dough, draw a picture, or throw
together a makeshift fort.

It doesn't really matter what we do. *I
just like playing with you.*

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

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