

# Helping Your Child Join Conversations or Play Dates

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Joining in isn't just about words — it's about timing, confidence, and understanding cues. Many children who speak well still struggle to enter social interactions smoothly.

### Try these gentle strategies

- Find the opening. Teach simple entry lines:
  - "Can I play too?"
  - "That looks fun — can I have a turn after you?"
- Model in real life. Role-play with you, siblings, or toys before real play dates.
- Praise effort. "You asked so politely to join — that was great!"
- Debrief later. After play, discuss what went well and what felt tricky.
- Observe first. Encourage your child to watch for a moment:  
"Let's see what game they're playing."

Confidence grows from success in small steps, not perfect performance.



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