## Development of Play Skills for Infants and Toddlers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Play</th>
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| Birth to 3 Months | • Responds to caregivers  
                        • Coos and smiles  
                        • Responds to familiar voices  
                        • Focuses on objects |
| 4 to 7 Months  | • Enjoys social games with caregiver  
                        • Likes exploratory play supported by caregiver  
                        • Plays some games with caregiver like peek-a-boo and patty cake |
| 8 to 12 Months | • Begins to imitate play actions or behavior of others, especially caregiver  
                        • Plays hiding games, songs and rhymes with caregiver  
                        • Plays alone without caregiver for short periods |
| 13 to 24 Months | • Enjoys play with objects  
                        • Increased interest in watching other children play (onlooker)  
                        • Primarily plays alone (solitary)  
                        • May offer toys to caregiver or other children  
                        • May choose independent play close to other children (parallel) but not interact with them |
| 13 to 24 Months | • May play with other children but in an occasional or limited way (associative)  
                        • Some cooperation and talking with other children  
                        • May take leader/follower roles in play  
                        • Some pretend play  
                        • Still plays alone frequently  
                        • Interactive level moving toward (cooperative play) |