

FOLLOWING MY CHILD'S LEAD IN PLAY

As adults and particularly parents we take on many roles with children.

We act as 'helper' following the natural instinct of doing and saying things for our children to make their life easier, however sometimes this stops them experiencing learning to say things for themselves.

Especially in this time of home-schooling we also take on the 'teacher' role. When we are in 'teacher role' we direct a child's play, give commands, and ask questions.

Sometimes it's helpful to take on another role of '*following my child's lead*'. A great time to practice this role is in **SPECIAL TIME PLAY**.

WHY FOLLOW MY CHILD'S LEAD IN PLAY?

- By playing with a toy your child has chosen for just 5 minutes, you can see what they are interested in. If they are interested in a toy they will be motivated to learn and remember the vocabulary about that toy.
- The play will be more fun for them as they will be doing it in their own way.
- There is more opportunity for them to develop their problem solving skills, imagination and self-confidence.



HOW DO I FOLLOW MY CHILD'S LEAD IN PLAY?

A good way to think about this is O-W-L

Observe

- Look at what they do with the toys
- Let them use play to learn and explore
- Try not to give them commands or instructions and remember there is no *right* and *wrong* way to play

Wait

Don't be in a hurry to do things for your child. By sitting back and waiting they might surprise you with what they are able to do or what they are able to say.

Listen

Listening to your child will increase their enjoyment in talking and confidence to talk.

to follow your child's lead you need to:

Observe → Wait → Listen

