



Turn Waiting Into a Challenge

A playful challenge can stretch a skill without turning waiting into a test.

Start with what children can already do.

A challenge can make an everyday wait more interesting when it builds on a skill a child already has. The goal is not to quiz children or keep them busy every second. It is to offer a playful stretch that feels achievable, interesting, and fun.

A just-right challenge is a little harder than what is already easy - but not so hard that it becomes frustrating.

What makes a challenge work?

START WITH SUCCESS

Think about what the child can already do comfortably. That gives you a starting point.

ADD A LITTLE

Stretch the skill slightly: count a little higher, remember one more thing, or add another step.

WATCH THE CHILD

Interest, effort, and enjoyment matter. The child's response tells you whether the challenge fits.

ADJUST AS NEEDED

Make it easier, harder, sillier, or different. A challenge should be flexible, not fixed.

Keep it playful.

Children do not need to complete the challenge, get the answer right, or keep going when they are done. Celebrate effort, follow their interest, and let the challenge change with the moment.

JUST A LITTLE MORE CHALLENGING.

If it feels too easy, add a little more. If it becomes frustrating, make it simpler or try something else. The goal is a playful stretch - not a test.