



NO-SUPPLIES WAITING GAMES

Simple play for everyday waits

Choose games that fit the child's age, development, interests, and the setting. The age groupings are guides, not rules.

FOR INFANTS & TODDLERS

PEEKABOO

Hide your face with your hands and reappear. Let the child take a turn when ready.

COPY MY FACE

Smile, puff your cheeks, open your mouth wide, or make another simple expression to imitate.

WHERE IS...?

Ask, 'Where's your nose?' 'Where are your toes?' or name familiar people for the child to find.

IMITATION

Copy a sound, expression, or movement. Pause and see whether the child responds or copies you.

CLAP & COPY

Clap or tap a simple pattern and invite the child to copy it.

SILLY SOUNDS

Take turns making animal sounds, vehicle sounds, or just funny noises.

FOR PRESCHOOLERS & UP

I'M THINKING OF...

Give clues about an animal, food, person, or familiar object until the other person guesses.

STORY BY STORY

One person starts a story. Take turns adding one sentence at a time.

RHYME TIME

Choose an easy word and take turns thinking of rhymes. Silly made-up rhymes count.

ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS

A quick classic that needs only two hands.

CATEGORY COUNTDOWN

Choose a category - animals, foods, vehicles - and take turns naming things that belong.

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Offer two silly choices: 'Would you rather fly or breathe underwater?'

COPY ME

Make a small movement, funny face, or tapping pattern for the other person to copy.

WHAT IF...?

Ask an imaginative question: 'What if dogs could talk?' Then build on each other's ideas.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY THROUGH THE WHOLE WAIT.

Try a game when it feels right. Talk for a while. Leave some space for children to be with their own thoughts and ideas.