



How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

As children interact with each other, negotiating the sharing of materials or planning imaginative play, they learn concepts and skills in cooperating, advocating one's own ideas and listening to others, handling frustration, and empathizing with others.

Try these at home!

- **Play a game.** If you have more than one child at home or when a friend is visiting, encourage the children to play a game together. Get them started by providing blocks, a board game, or dramatic play items so they can develop a scenario together.
- **Solve a problem.** Let kids problem solve together. Try to talk less and listen more. When one child cries, you might hear another say, "Don't worry, I'll help you."

Things to say:

- "I can see you two have both decided to be doctors!"
Positive reinforcement will encourage better social skills.
- "If you had two pans, could you both become cooks?"
Encouraging cooperation is important.
- "How would you feel if she took your toy away?"
Teaching empathy helps children understand how another person might be feeling.



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