

Categories of Play: Social and Cognitive

Parten's Social Categories of Play		Piaget's Cognitive Categories of Play	
Solitary	<u>Solitary Play</u> Children play alone with toys; if other children are nearby, they go un-noticed.	Functional	<u>Functional Play</u> Children engage in sensory and motor exploration of toys, materials, and people in order to learn about them.
Parallel	<u>Parallel Play</u> Children play side-by-side with little interaction, engaged with their own toys. Aware of and pleased by the company of others.	Constructive	<u>Constructive Play</u> Children manipulate objects in order to create something.
Associative	<u>Associative Play</u> Pairs and groups of children play together and share materials but cooperation and negotiation is rare.	Symbolic/Dramatic	<u>Dramatic Play</u> Children pretend to be other than what they are and use actions, objects, or words to represent things or situations.
Cooperative	<u>Cooperative Play</u> Groups of children engage in sustained play episodes in which they plan, negotiate, and share responsibility & leadership.	Games with Rules	<u>Games with Rules</u> In solitary or group play children recognize and follow rules that conform to the expectations and goals of the game in order to sustain play.