



Following your child's lead

Why should I do it?

Letting your child lead during special time helps them feel safe to share their thoughts and ideas in their own way. You can learn what they like and see how they enjoy playing. This gives you a great chance to help your child learn to focus on things together with you.

How do I do it?

1. During special time, sit facing your child at the **same eye level**.
2. Let them **choose** what they want to play with (you can put out a few choices).
3. **Watch** what they are doing then...
4. Join in by **talking about** what you see them doing, and / or **copying** them.



"But what if they don't play with the toys properly?"

Your child may play differently from how you would -- this is okay!

If your child runs off or leaves the activity, don't call them back -- watch what they want to do next and continue to follow their lead.

Ideas!



Toy Animals

If they make the cow say moo, see what happens when you take turns and make animal noises back with another toy..

Blocks

If they stack and knock over blocks, take turns stacking with them.

Balls

If they roll the ball, roll it back to them.
If they hold the ball up and then drop it, you do the same!.

Video example

