

# **DOES YOUR CHILD:**

Try new ways of using familiar objects?		Child's Name	
Often	Sometimes	Not Yet	
	<mark>d then</mark> finish them? (e.g. finis <mark>I then sh</mark> ow you the result)	h a puzzle, build or	
Often	Sometimes	Not Yet	
	<mark>igs togeth</mark> er (e.g. sort silverw (e.g., smallest to biggest)?	are, put same colored items together)	
Often	Sometimes	Not Yet	
Act as if pretend obj	<mark>ects are re</mark> al? (e.g. dolls, anin	als, food, etc.)	
Often	Sometimes	Not Yet	to school.
*		Clip and S	ave.

## Encourage your child to try another way to solve a problem

When your child is having trouble doing something, you might want to step in and solve the problem. If it's not too hard, encourage your child to keep trying. If they can't figure it out or get too frustrated, suggest a solution or show them what can be done. Working to solve problems helps your child persist and think creatively.

## Guide your child to begin and finish some activities

Not all activities have a clear beginning and end, but you can plan times for your child to finish something. This helps them learn to plan, focus, and complete things. Work a simple puzzle together and celebrate when it's done. Put all the laundry in the washer and close the lid. Finish reading a book together and put it on the shelf. Saying or signing "all done" helps mark that the activity or task is done.

## Provide opportunities to group alike items

Have your child help put away clean dishes, matching where spoons, forks, bowls, and/or plates belong. Ask your child to help sort laundry, putting socks in one pile and towels in another. Sort out cars and toy animals into two piles. Sorting helps your child learn to organize information and pay attention to what is the same and different.

## **Encourage pretend play**

Your child may pretend using realistic items such as a baby doll, toy animals or cars, or dishes. Watch what your child is interested in and encourage them to pretend with things that match that interest. Model pretend play and play alongside them. It may seem like your child is just having fun, but pretend play helps your child practice a lot of skills! It is even one of the first steps toward reading and math as they are beginning to understand that one thing can represent another.





Connecticut Office of Early Childhood