

WATCH - LISTEN - MOVE CLOSER - EASE IN

I am learning about playing with others.

My name is _____. I am learning to play with others.

Sometimes I see other kids playing. I may want to play with them.

There are steps that may help kids join a group activity. Many kids follow these four steps: **1) watch**, **2) listen**, **3) move closer**, and **4) ease in**.

I *might* join the activity.

I am learning to join other kids at play. I am learning to **watch**, **listen**, **move closer**, and **ease in**.

I *might* join the activity. Sometimes, I may follow the four steps and join the activity. Sometimes, I may follow the four steps and not join the activity.

If I learn how to **watch**, **listen**, **move closer**, and **ease in**, I _____ join the activity.

Adults can help.

My list of trusted adults:

Most adults remember what it is like to be a child. There were times when they joined other children in an activity. There were likely other times when they tried and did not join the activity. Adults can help children learn to **watch**, **listen**, **move closer**, and **ease in**. If I have questions, I may go to an adult that I know and trust for help.

Step 1 is **WATCH**



What does **watch** mean?

Step 1 to joining kids at play is to **watch** what they do.

Watch means to look carefully. Kids who **watch** stop for a moment to look and think. it's important to stop for a moment and look quietly.

My trusted adults may help me practice watching other kids.



The kids in this photo are playing _____.

Sometimes it's hard to make a guess by just watching. **Listening** can help!



What does **listen** mean?

Step 2 to joining an activity is to **listen**. **Listen** means to decide to hear something or someone.

Sometimes, people **listen** to music or television. There are also times when people **listen** to what other people say.

Listening to what kids are saying may give clues about what they are doing or why they are doing it.

Sometimes, it may be possible to hear only a few words. There are other clues that might help. Listening to *how* kids are talking may help. It is often (but not always) true that...

1. If kids are smiling once in a while and talking loud and fast, they are probably enjoying the activity and having fun.



2. Sometimes, kids that are quiet and moving slowly may be having fun, too. This can happen when kids play a game or work on an interesting project.



2. If kids look unhappy and talk loud and fast, they may have a disagreement. Or, if they look unhappy and are talking very little or not at all, they may be feeling frustrated or angry.





**What does
move closer mean?**

Step 3 to joining kids at play is to move closer to them.

Most of the time, it's a good idea to walk slow when moving closer.

Adults have studied how kids join other kids at play. It's a good choice to leave favorite ideas and toys behind, at least for a little while. Kids who use the play ideas of the group are more likely to join the activity.



It's smart to keep listening and watching while moving closer to a group. There may be important cues. The girl on the right side in this photo is smiling and has a friendly face. She's in the activity but is looking back. A kid with a friendly face may be helpful to other kids who want to play, too.



What does **ease in** mean?

Step 4 to joining kids at play is to **ease in** to the activity.

Easing in to an activity is a little bit like adults when they drive and enter a highway. They find a place and go the same direction as other cars in the same lane. Easing into play with others means finding a place or role in the group.

There are four steps to joining other kids who are involved in an activity:

1. **WATCH** what the kids do;
2. **LISTEN** to what the kids say;
3. **MOVE CLOSER**; to the group; and
4. **EASE IN** to the activity.

Sometimes kids follow the four steps and make it into an activity. Sometimes kids follow the four steps and do not make it into the activity.

I may try the four steps to join other kids at play. Any one or more of my trusted adults can help me practice. Sometimes it may work for me!