

# Child Learning in Play System (CLIPS)

## Selecting Intervention Strategies

The intervention strategies listed below can be used in isolation or in combination as part of a treatment package. Strategies should be selected based on the individual child's needs and why the need is present (e.g., skill deficit, performance deficit). Regardless of what strategies you use, descriptive praise and reinforcement should be built into the intervention plan.

## General Intervention Strategies

- **Encouraging play**
  - Sit down on the floor with the child and play together
  - Provide a wide range of toys
    - Examples: Kitchen and food items, dolls and accessories, vehicles, stuffed animals, blocks, tool set, camera, phone, cash register, car keys, farm animals, shape sorter, comb and brush
  - Introduce new toys and/or non-toy objects
    - Non-toy objects can encourage acts of substitution
  - Encourage child to try new centers/stations
  - Encourage child to play with unfamiliar toys
- **Reinforcing play**
  - Reinforce play acts by providing a preferred activity or item immediately after the child engages in a desired behavior
    - Especially important when the child engages in a new play behavior
  - Provide immediate descriptive praise for playing
    - Example: "I love how you are pretending the banana is a phone!"
- **Involving play partners**
  - Teach peers and/or siblings how to help child play

## Specific Intervention Strategies

- **Modeling play acts**
  - While a child is watching you, act out a play act or sequence
  - After modeling the behavior, encourage the child to imitate
  - Praise any attempts
  - Reinforce imitation (or approximation) of target play act(s)
- **Prompting play acts/add-ons**
  - Provide a verbal or nonverbal cue for what play behavior to engage in next
  - Direct Prompt: Tell the child what act to engage in
    - Example: “The baby is hungry. Feed her the bottle.”
  - Indirect Prompt: Encourage child to engage in act without explicitly stating what you want him/her to do
    - Example: If a child is holding a doll, ask “Do you think the baby needs something? Is she hungry?”
- **Story telling**
  - Read a story together, then have the child act out various scenes
  - Provide toys related to the story
  - Social stories can also be used to encourage play
- **Previewing and reviewing**
  - Before starting to play, preview play behaviors with a child
    - Example: “What are we going to play with today?”
  - After playing, review what you did
    - Example: “What did we do today?”
- **Substitution: providing non-toy items**
  - Suggestions: Cardboard boxes, cotton balls, sticks, foam balls, construction paper, egg cartons, toilet paper rolls, water bottles