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## Plan for play

Set the stage for learning by planning play experiences that fit children's learning goals.

- Make play areas safe, fun, and open to all
- Select materials that promote curiosity and rich, interactive play
- Choose activities based on children's interests, strengths, and areas to grow
- Share info with families so children can keep learning at home

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## Support children in play

Power up play by engaging and guiding children while they play. Use active listening and expand on children's play while letting them lead — in child-led play, detours often lead to discoveries.

- Let children talk and lead the play
- Help children plan and grow their ideas by asking questions
- Support children to solve problems and try new approaches
- Let children take safe risks and try hard things

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## Observe, reflect, and plan

While children play, adults are hard at work: engaging, observing, assessing, learning, and planning for the next “just right” experience.

- See how activities, materials, and the room affect play
- Support children in the next steps in building skills
- Give them just enough help to do a bit more; slowly give less help as they get better



# YOU

BRING POWER TO

# PLAY



## Playtime is braintime

Young brains love play – it is how we learn about our world, our communities, and ourselves. Guided play is a fun and child-led activity where you, as the educator, create a setting that helps the child learn. You can intentionally support children to develop many new skills, all while children are making their own discoveries.



## Power up play for learning

All children can learn through play and you play an important role! When you are responsive to a baby's signals (facial expressions, noises, etc.), you help them build their brains for life. These back-and-forth interactions between caregivers and children are known as "serve and return". As children grow older, you can stay flexible, embrace the mess, laugh, connect, and enjoy the journey of discovery.



Learn more at  
[ctoec.org/play](https://ctoec.org/play)



LET'S  
**PLAY**  
FOR  
**JOY**

