



Playing Games

"Mommy, can we play it again?"

Preschoolers LOVE games! They want to play games all day long, over and over again, long after most adults' interest wanes. But, as a parent you are your child's most important teacher and playmate.

Play games with your child — singing games, moving games, jumping games, quiet games, silly games, board games, made-up games, building games and more games. Games are a fun way to learn!

What Are the Benefits?

Games offer a variety of learning experiences. Sometimes, the only players in the game may be you and your child. Other times, there may be a mixture of children and adults, and sometimes there may just be children playing. Games develop skills that children will need in many areas of their lives, such as:

- Taking turns.
- Working cooperatively.
- Observing and accepting others' ideas.
- Gaining skills and confidence in being a leader as well as a follower.
- Watching, listening to and speaking to one another.
- Learning to control impulses.
- Considering the feelings of others.

—(*Song Play*, edited by Peggy D. Bennet, p. 4.)

Playing games with their peers and their parents gives children the opportunity to learn social skills necessary for school and friendships.

Playing Games

What is your child's favorite game? Have a Family Game Night and play an assortment of games including those using your *Cities!* Game Board Set. For games on the go, keep the game cards handy in the car and make up games using them—singing a song for each card, for example—as you travel down the road. You can play a wide variety of games with the city scene poster, the puzzle-cut game board and the deck of cards provided in your *At Home Materials*. Playing the *Cities!* games:

- Encourages children to consolidate previous learning, by recalling songs,

sounds and activities from the class experience while playing.

- Creates play situations in which your child can practice solving problems and develop flexible thinking.
- Provides children an opportunity to practice new skills (taking turns, singing, matching, storytelling and counting) in various game contexts and strategies.

Your Child's Development

The *Cities!* games offer an integrated mode of play that affects all learning domains for preschoolers. You can help your preschooler develop these domains:

- **Social**
Encourage your child's social nature. Play games with your preschooler as well as let her play with her friends.
- **Cognitive**
Model problem-solving. Allow your child to figure things out for himself.
- **Musical**
Share the excitement of singing and playing instruments with your child, and of listening to and identifying favorite *Cities!* songs.
- **Physical**
Join in with your child as she moves her body to music.
- **Language**
Listen attentively as your child tells you stories. Ask him to tell a story relating objects on the game board.
- **Emotional**
Support and guide your child with her emotional responses to winning or losing.

