

**DOMAIN 3: SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT****SUB-DOMAIN: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT****INTERACTIONS WITH PEERS****GOAL 28: CHILDREN DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS WITH PEERS.**

Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
<p><b>16 to 38 Months</b></p>	<p>Engages in play with peers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plays side-by-side with another child.</li> <li>▪ Observes and imitates another child's behavior or activity.</li> <li>▪ Initiates social interaction with peers (e.g. brings toys to child or takes toys away, moves closer to child, or stares at the child).</li> <li>▪ Shows enthusiasm about the company of other children by touching or hugging a child, offering toys, giving eye contact, or by addressing the other child using words or sounds.</li> <li>▪ Shows preference for familiar playmates.</li> <li>▪ Responds verbally when interacting with peers (talking or signing).</li> <li>▪ Inquires about other children (e.g. "Where's Rafael?" or "Why is Crystal crying?").</li> <li>▪ Takes turns during play with peers, with considerable adult assistance.</li> <li>▪ Gives and takes back objects during playful interactions with peers, with assistance.</li> <li>▪ Mimics other children's behaviors or movements.</li> <li>▪ May access an imaginary friend for playing or explaining actions.</li> <li>▪ Engages in brief social games (e.g. rolling the ball, Ring Around the Rosy, chase).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help children communicate with others when negotiating toys, space, and feelings by providing words and explanations and expressing empathy for both children.</li> <li>▪ Be sure there is plenty of room for multiple children to walk, run, bend, stoop, and play on the floor without having to compete too much for space.</li> <li>▪ Schedule time and space for, and then enthusiastically support children as they engage in open-ended play with each other (e.g. dramatic play and free play).</li> <li>▪ In group settings, offer multiples of new and desired toys/props.</li> <li>▪ Offer a few toys that can be played with by two or more children at one time, being sure to be close by to help children negotiate conflicts and turn taking.</li> <li>▪ Support a child's discussions and explanation about an imaginary friend by acknowledging the child's thoughts and comments.</li> <li>▪ Provide books, toys, and materials that show children from many settings, genders, cultures, and races.</li> <li>▪ Facilitate play and communication among children of different ability levels, and linguistic and cultural backgrounds.</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunity for children to engage in interactive games (rolling the ball, give-and-take, follow the leader).</li> </ul>