

Rock the Boat

Primary Objectives

- 2c. Interacts with peers
- 5. Demonstrates balancing skills

Why It's Important

Rocking toys encourage children to use their gross-motor skills in a unique way. With practice, your child can learn the relationship between bending her legs up and down and rocking her upper body back and forth to make the toy move. Rocking toys also give her the opportunity to work cooperatively with other children towards a common goal.

Materials

Rocking boat

What You Do

1. Add the toy to your home, or visit a playground with a seesaw.
2. Invite your child to explore the toy. Observe how she uses it, and talk about what you see. *I see you sitting in the middle of the boat.*
3. If your child sits on one end of the toy, describe what happened. *The boat went down on your side.*
4. Encourage her problem-solving skills by asking questions that prompt her to think about how the toy moves. *How can we make it rock back and forth?*
5. If another child joins your child, acknowledge their cooperation. *[Bella] goes up and Sara goes down.*
6. Continue observing and interacting with your child for as long as she is interested.