

Four to five years

You'll probably see your child starting to play more cooperatively with other children. Friendships become more important, although they're still learning and will need your help.

They may have lots of energy and enjoy trying new challenges. They'll look for ways to be independent. They may test rules and routines, or use 'silly' behaviour to get your attention. Ignore this if you can.

Te hinengaro māharo



Playing games uses lots of different parts of the brain. Avoid meltdowns by making games simple and not focused on winning.



Ways you can support them:

- keep giving them lots of affection and positive attention
- be clear about what you expect from them, "Remember to thank Rosie for your play date"
- encourage them to try lots of different things
- give them jobs to do so they can feel important and responsible
- praise their efforts when they try hard
- give warnings before consequences, "If you can't keep your scooter on the path, you'll need to walk." Stay calm when you need to follow through with a consequence
- support and encourage them to work out their own solutions to problems.