

Join the play before you change it

Four steps into a game your child is already playing.

1

Sit down at their level and wait.

On the floor, beside them, facing the same way they are facing. Standing over a game is not joining it.



2

Do the same thing they are doing.

Your own blocks, your own car, the same action. Copying is the invitation, and most children answer it before they answer a question.



3

Wait for the look.

A glance at you is the answer. That is the second the play became shared, and it is the second to respond to.



4

Change one thing, not the game.

Add a single piece, or a single word. If they leave, go back to copying and try the change again later.

