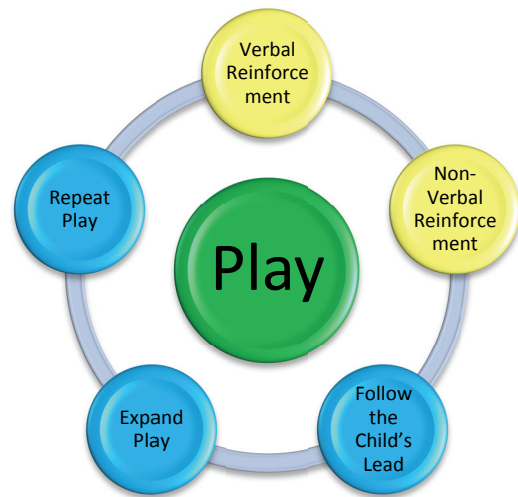


# Facilitating Play for Children with Special Needs



## **Verbal Reinforcement:**

- Tone, Volume and Inflection
- Verbal Affection
- Specific Accomplishment
  - Even an attempt can be an accomplishment
- Not Demanding
- Multiple Approaches
- Focus on Interacting with Child, Not Teaching

## **Non-Verbal Reinforcement:**

- Use eye contact
- Relax your body posture
  - Arms unfolded
  - Legs uncrossed
- Smile or laugh
- Lean toward your child
- Share the same space with the child
- Show affection

## **Follow the Child's Lead:**

Child begins to play without prompting

- Observe
- Mimic the child playing
- Join the child where he/she is playing

## **Expand Play:**

- Add a step to the play
- Add a related element to the activity
- Question the child
- Add a problem to solve or a barrier to overcome

***In a way appropriate for your child.***

## **Repeat Play:**

- Recognize child's desire to continue an activity
- Ask child if he/she wants to repeat
- Play as if the activity or toy is new and exciting
- Maintain enthusiasm
- Play until child loses interest or playtime ends
- Upon mastery, expand on repeated activity; change just a bit.



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