



**Types of Play:  
Understanding How  
Kids Enjoy Play**

**Role Playing**

**Dramatic**  Kids take on roles within pretend games about familiar experiences .

**Fantasy**  A play that involves props and costumes, as they engage in fantasy adventures.

**Exploration Centric**

 Explore the properties and functions of materials, equipment and objects. Kids experiment with a tool to find out how it works. Few examples, clay or dough, star constellations exploration, magnifying glass viewing.

**Constructive Play**

 Children manipulate and explore objects, parts and materials. Threading beads, doing puzzles, using construction sets, dress up dolls, using scissors to cut straws, paper, card, fabric and wool.

**Communication Exercise Play**

 Play using words, nuances or gestures - mimes, jokes, guess the word, singing, fill in the blanks music lyrics etc.

**Social Play**

 Play with social engagement and interaction with playmates - team sports, party games like musical chairs, sack race, newspaper

**Physical Play**

 Explore movements and ways to combine movements - running and playing ball, jumping, climbing, dancing, moving on an obstacle course.

**Competitive Play**

 A mix of different types of play but centered to the competitive environment of the play - a basketball league for kids can become competitive, a soccer match against two teams can always become a competition.

**Games with Rules**

 Children follow or create rules to reach a shared objective in a game - playing outdoor games, following child-created games with rules, playing computer, board and card games.

**Resources:**  
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/parents/0-5/0-5-drama-different-type-play.pdf>  
<http://childdevelopment.com/child-development/play-week-of-October-10/>  
<http://www.homeschool.com/child-development/Types-of-Play.htm>