

permeate their play and are also evident in their behavior and language. Childhood is full of chants and taunts, such as “Eeeny, meeny, miney, mo,” “Last one is a rotten egg,” and “Step on a crack, break your mother's back.” Children derive a sense of pleasure and power from such sayings, which have been handed down with few changes through generations.

### **Team Play**

A more complex form of play that evolves from the need for peer interaction is team games and sports. A referee, umpire, or person of authority may be required so that the rules can be followed more accurately. Team play teaches children to modify or exchange personal goals for goals of the group; it also teaches them that division of labor is an effective strategy for attaining a goal.

Team play can also contribute to children's social, intellectual, and skill growth ([Eime, Young, Harvey, et al, 2013](#)). Children work hard to develop the skills needed to become team members, to improve their contribution to the group, and to anticipate the consequences of their behavior for the group. Team play helps stimulate cognitive growth because children are called on to learn many complex rules, make judgments about those rules, plan strategies, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of members of their own team and members of the opposing team.

### **Quiet Games and Activities**

Although the play of school-age children can be highly active, they also enjoy many quiet and solitary activities. The middle years are the time for collections, and young school-age children's collections are an odd assortment of unrelated objects in messy, disorganized piles. Collections of later school years are more orderly and selective and often are organized in scrapbooks, on shelves, or in boxes.

School-age children become fascinated with complex board, card, or computer games that they can play alone or in groups. As in all games, adherence to the rules is fanatic. Disagreements over rules can cause much discussion and argument but are easily resolved by reading the rules of the game.

The newly acquired skill of reading becomes increasingly satisfying as school-age children expand their knowledge of the