

who may or may not play in the group. Each child acts according to his or her own wishes; there is no group goal (Fig. 3-8). For example, two children play with dolls, borrowing articles of clothing from each other and engaging in similar conversation, but neither directs the other's actions or establishes rules regarding the limits of the play session. There is a great deal of behavioral contagion: When one child initiates an activity, the entire group follows the example.



**FIG 3-8** Associative play.

**Cooperative play:** Cooperative play is organized, and children play in a group with other children (Fig. 3-9). They discuss and plan activities for the purposes of accomplishing an end—to make something, attain a competitive goal, dramatize situations of adult or group life, or play formal games. The group is loosely formed, but there is a marked sense of belonging or not belonging. The goal and its attainment require organization of activities, division of labor, and role playing. The leader–follower relationship is definitely established, and the activity is controlled by one or two members who assign roles and direct the activity of the others. The activity is organized to allow one child to supplement another's function to complete the goal.