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LET'S PRETEND

Dramatic Play in the Classroom

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“Building for the future”

The Values of Dramatic Play:

“The whole child benefits from the ability to pretend!”

Social:

Role taking

Perspective taking

Cooperation and sharing

Multicultural awareness

Emotional:

Express emotions in safe ways

Feel a sense of power

Feel security

Develop autonomy

Distinguish fantasy from reality

Cognitive:

Increase language skills

Increase creativity

Increase problem-solving skills

Increase understanding of symbols

Physical:

Fine motor skills

Gross motor skills

How To Encourage Dramatic Play:

Setting the Stage:

1. Consider the location & space
2. Furnish your “home”-Child sized basics

Stove

Sink

Refrigerator

Table & Chairs

Doll Bed

Mirror

Shelves

3. Choose appropriate props and accessories

Empty food containers

Pots, pans, & dishes

Dolls

Telephone

Dress-up clothes

Job specific items

4. Let children take the lead
5. Provide enough time
6. Guide their play scenarios

“Your challenge is to offer a variety of props and the basic framework for a setting.”

The Teacher Role:

1. Observe, Observe, Observe
2. Suggest a prop
3. Suggest a theme
4. Become a play partner (model)

Power Play:

1. Disarm Weapon Play
 - Encourage a child to verbalize his feelings
 - Be direct about why a child cannot hurt others
 - Offer alternatives for working through anger
2. Help Super-heroes exist peacefully

Dramatic Play Is Everywhere:

The Block Corner

The Puppet Center

The Sand and Water Table

On the Playground

*Outline taken from Learning Through Play: Dramatic Play, A Practical Guide for Teaching Young Children. Edited by Nancy Jo Hereford and Jane Schall, 1991 Scholastic Inc.

Setting the Stage

Spring cleaning	Play newspaper
Washing the dishes	Election Center
Bathing the baby	Beauty shop
Cooking lunch	Bicycle Repair
Make a “real” snack	Play Train
Cooking at a restaurant	Play airplane
Pizza parlor	Bakery
Setting the table	Wedding
Getting ready for school	Gift Wrap
Getting ready for work	Flower Shop
Going for a drive	Space Shuttle
Going shopping	Icy Continent
Play store – (clothing, (shoe, grocery, etc.)	Go camping
Play library	Play post office
Play t.v. news	Build a tent
Birthday party	
Play school	
Play church	
Indoor picnic	
Play hospital	
Play doctor’s office	
Play dentist	
Play nursery	
Play fire station	
Play veterinarian	
Talk on the telephone	
Getting ready for bed	