

# A Practical Guide to Understanding Functional Play with Pretense in young children

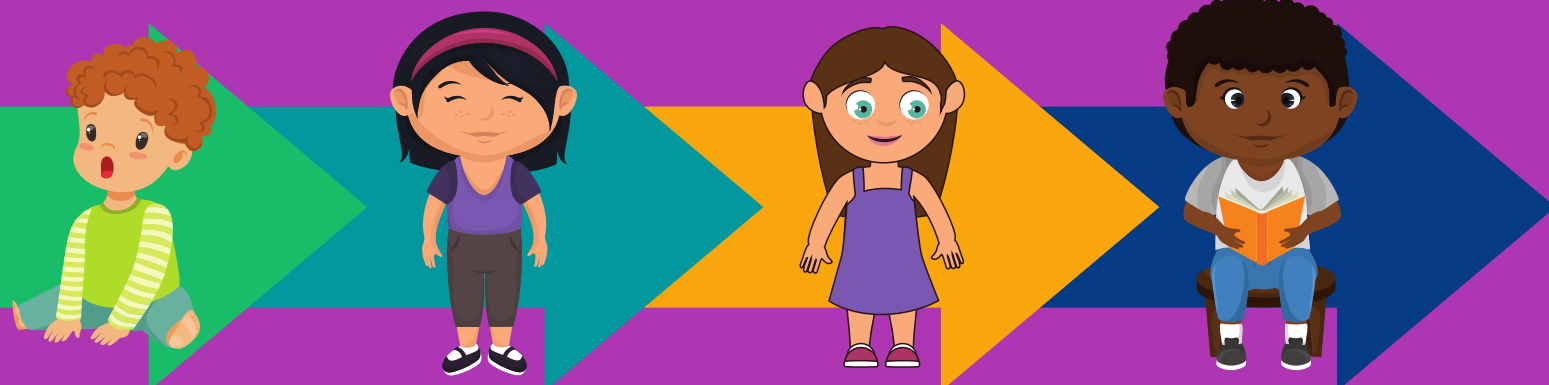
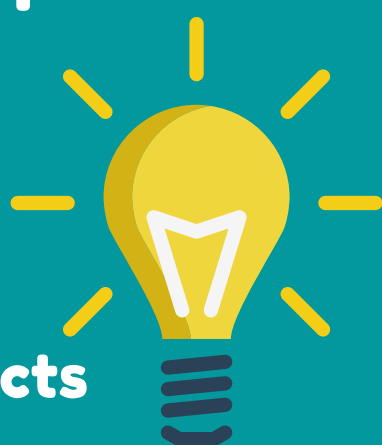
## What is functional play with pretense?



Functional play with pretense is when children use actual or miniature objects in the manner in which they are intended to be used without the reality based outcome.

## Why is functional play with pretense important?

- Supports children as they learn to pretend
- Encourages children to use their imagination when playing with objects



Begins in the toddler years and continues through the preschool years

**How does functional play with pretense support children's development?**

Functional play with pretense promotes the development of:

- motor skills,
- imagination,
- concentration,
- problem solving,
- self-esteem,
- creativity,

and much more!

## How can adults support functional play with pretense?

- Provide several age appropriate toys the child can play with independently
- Model how children can functionally use the toys
- Provide positive attention as the child plays
- Rotate toys to keep the experience new and fun for the child
- Provide the child with plenty of time and adequate space to engage in functional play with pretense

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Created by Barton Lab at Vanderbilt University. Contact: [bartonlabvu@gmail.com](mailto:bartonlabvu@gmail.com)