

# A Practical Guide to Understanding Imagining Absent Objects in young children

## What is imagining absent objects?



**Imagining absent objects is when the child performs a motor action that suggests using an object in the object's absence.**

## Why is imagining absent objects important?

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



**Begins and continues beyond the preschool years**

## How does imagining absent objects support children's development?

**Imagining absent objects promotes the development of:**

- motor skills,
- imagination,
- concentration,
- problem solving,
- language,
- creativity,

**and much more!**

## How can adults support imagining absent objects?

- Model how the child can pretend to use an object when they do not have it
- Imitate the child when they pretend to use an absent object
- Provide positive attention as the child plays
- Provide the child with plenty of time and adequate space to imagine absent objects while playing

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