

A Practical Guide to Understanding Assigning Absent Attributes in young children

What is assigning absent attributes?



Assigning absent attributes is when a child assigns roles, emotions, or attributes to themselves, others, or objects (ex: the child is a teacher)

Why is assigning absent attributes important?

- Supports children as they learn roles and emotions
- Encourages children to use their imagination when playing



Begins and continues beyond the preschool years

How does assigning absent attributes support children's development?

Assigning absent attributes promotes the development of:

- independence,
- imagination,
- cooperation,
- problem solving,
- language,
- creativity,

and much more!

How can adults support assigning absent attributes?

- Model how children can pretend to assign attributes to themselves, others, or objects
- When children assign you an attribute, play along with it and expand on it
- Provide positive attention as children play
- Provide children with plenty of time, space, and materials to assign absent attributes while playing

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