

Teaching Pretend Play Skills



Pretend play is when children create non-literal play schemes with and without toys and objects. Types of pretend play include functional play with pretense, object substitution, imagining absent objects, and assigning absent attributes.



SETTING UP A CONTEXT FOR PRETEND PLAY

- look around your house and classroom and identify toys that interest the child
- watch what the child is doing and follow their lead
- imitate what the child is doing and use words that they can repeat to describe their play
- model new things to do with the toys and objects that are similar to what the child is doing and talk about what you are doing

PROVIDING SUPPORT

- give the child time to imitate what you are doing
- use words that the child can repeat to describe their play
- if the child is not imitating what you are doing, try modeling other actions or using other ways to reinforce the child

RESPONDING TO CHILD

- reinforce the child's play
- keep playing with them and following their lead in play!



Play should be fun for the child! Check out this [resource](#) on how to use praise during play!



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