



Preschool Dramatic Play Center Tip Sheet

The center should be accessible to children, and out of the flow of traffic, clearly defined, and large enough to accommodate the number of children allowed to play without being crowded.

A variety of materials, representing at least two themes (work, leisure, and/or fantasy) should be accessible to all children including dolls, child-sized furniture, play foods, cooking/eating utensils, and dress up clothes for boys and girls.

Diversity should be easily recognizable in materials (cultural food and cooking utensils, multiple ethnicities in dolls/play people, equipment used to assist people with disabilities, dress up clothing from multiple cultures).

In order to show diversity there should be representation of multiple ethnicities. (i.e. Asian, American Indian, Latino, and/or African dolls)

Materials should be organized and stored neatly based on type of toy.

Dramatic Play materials could also be available outside.

Positive interactions with children during dramatic play should take place frequently.



Dramatic Play Themes: Work

Construction	Restaurant
Farmer/gardener	Store
Firefighter	Zoo
Medical	Vet
Office	Beauty/barber shop
Post office	

Leisure

Camping
Fishing
Picnic
Sports
Vacation

Language to use in Dramatic Play

Examples of vocabulary words

- imagination
- pretend
- housekeeping
- recipe
- ingredients
- chef
- other theme related words

Examples of open-ended questions

- What are you going to be today?
- Why do you want to be a ...?
- What ingredients are in your recipe?
- What are you planning?
- How do you make ...?