



Let's Pretend!



Elements of Pretend Play

To appreciate and support children's pretend play, watch and listen for the following pretend play elements when observing children:

- Pretending to be someone else
- Using one object to stand for another
- Using gestures, sounds, and words to depict an object, situation, or setting
- Sharing pretend play and roles with others
- Talking with others as part of a pretend play situation

Strategies for Supporting and Extending Pretend Play

Imitating actions and sounds

- Watch for children's spontaneous imitation.
- Imitate children's actions and sounds.
- Build opportunities for imitation into the daily routine.

Pretending and role playing

- Provide materials and props for pretending.
- Watch and listen for elements of pretend play.
- Participate in pretend play respectfully, taking cues from children.
 - Take cues from children.
 - Follow the theme and content set by the children.
 - Offer suggestions within the pretend situation.
 - Respect children's responses to your ideas.
 - Address the pretend person rather than the child.
- Plan ways to support children's pretend play.
 - Add materials.
 - Take field trips to places that would give children more ideas for their pretend play.
 - Invite people and bring in animals to visit.
- Provide time for children's pretend play to unfold and develop.

Supporting and Extending Children's Pretend Play

With a partner, read through the pretend-play interests of these children and choose a way to support and a way to extend each interest using the strategies on page 2.

Pretend-Play Interest	Support	Extend
Sierra and Gabrielle have been pretending to be kitties for the past three days.		
Jibreel and Dante have been dressing up as firefighters and running around putting out fires.		
During play time, Cameron built "space ships" out of Legos and was flying them around the playroom.		
Kyra had gone to the salon with her mom to get her nails done. During play time, Kyra pretended to paint Rayanne's nails using a small paintbrush and water.		

Supporting and Extending Your Children's Pretend-Play Interests

Children in my setting like to pretend:

Ideas for supporting and extending their interests:

