



HELLO PARENTS,

Dramatic play encourages children to enter a world of imaginary play. Such role-playing helps support children's creativity and imagination in their everyday involvement in solitary and group play. Children learn important social skills, empathy, language, and communication. Dramatic play also allows children to better understand the separation between pretend and real life. In this newsletter, you will find activities that support how you can engage in dramatic play together with your children.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

UNWRAP THE FUN!

MATERIALS:

- Wrapping paper (or newspapers)
- Your child's favourite toys

DIRECTIONS:

- Wrap up the toys with the paper.
- Set up an area for opening the wrapped toys.
- Encourage your child to find out what is inside. Ask questions: "I wonder what's inside?", "How can we open it?"
- See how long it takes your child to figure out how to get to the object and what techniques they are using.

[Click here](#) for more dramatic play ideas for your baby.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

LET'S HAVE A PICNIC

MATERIALS:

- Blankets · Pillows · Containers with snacks
- Water · Paper plates and cups · Paper towel roll

DIRECTIONS:

- With your child, choose a spot for picnic (inside or outdoors).
- Engage your child in setting up the blanket, plates, cups and serving food.
- Using the paper towel roll, look around and pretend that you see different things (wild animals, people, vehicles, etc.).
- Follow your child's lead and enjoy the picnic!

[Click here](#) to find more dramatic play ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

DOCTOR'S OFFICE

MATERIALS:

- White blouse/t-shirt
- Notebook
- Pencil
- Blanket
- Doctor set toys, if available

DIRECTIONS:

- Decide who is the patient and who is the doctor.
- Act out the roles based on what your child knows from their visits at the doctor's office.
- Take turns being a doctor or a patient.

[Click here](#) to read "Pete the Kitty Goes to the Doctor" by Kimberly and James Dean.

[Click here](#) for more dramatic play ideas.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

AT THE SUPERMARKET

MATERIALS:

- Cereal boxes · Cans · Bottles · Toys
- Other materials available · Paper, markers and scissors
- Grocery bag or a basket

DIRECTIONS:

- Set up a pretend supermarket at home with items you have collected.
- Use paper, markers and scissors to make play money.
- Take turns being a cashier and a shopper, follow your child's lead and imagination.

[Click here](#) for more pretend play activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

CHARADES

MATERIALS:

- Pre-cut blank slips of paper for making charade game cards
- A notepad and a pencil for scorekeeping

DIRECTIONS:

- Divide players into two teams.
- On the pieces of paper, each team writes down the names of movies, books, or TV shows.
- Fold up the papers so the words are not visible and place them in a container.
- Each team member takes a turn choosing a paper and acting out the role (without talking) that is written on the paper, while the other team guesses what it is.

[Click here](#) for acting games for children.



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and Citizenship Canada

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et Citoyenneté Canada

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

- During bath time, offer plastic boats, cups and rubber dolls to your child and pretend together.
- Read stories together and involve your child in acting out different parts.
- Collect some old clothes for your child to use to dress up and make-believe.
- Ask questions to encourage your child to come up with new ideas or extend their play.