Imagination and Play
June 2020

Click on each book cover for links to read-aloud videos!

Monthly Activity

Dramatic play is more than just playing dress up. When you and your child role play and create stories together, it supports their imagination and creativity and helps them build key early language skills, as well as social-emotional skills such as sharing, taking turns, and cooperation.

**Dramatic Play**

Try out a few of the imaginary scenes below with your child; make sure to use specific vocabulary to support language development:

1. **Camping**: Make a "tent" using blanket, sheets and chairs. You can pretend to roast marshmallows, crawl into your sleeping bag, look for animals in the woods, etc.
2. **Outer Space**: Take turns flying a space ship and walking on the moon. Ask kids to look out the window of their spaceship. Say, "What do you see in the sky?" to start discussing stars and planets.
3. **Restaurant**: Work on memory skills as you take each other's orders, and brainstorm delicious creations to cook. Ask kids, "What ingredients do we need? What tools can we use to cook?" Pretend to use pots, pans, and kitchen tools to create a special meal together.
4. **Garden**: Talk about the fruits and vegetables you want to plant. Then, pretend to dig up soil, sprinkle seeds, cover them, and water them. How tall do your plants grow? What color are they?

This activity is inspired by Sesame Street in Communities’ activity **Dramatic Play**.

Ask Questions

As you read through a book, take time to stop and ask your child questions about the story. Try to ask questions that are "open-ended", or do not have "yes" or "no" answers, such as, "Tell me about...", "Why do you think...", or, "What do you think about...". These will encourage your child to build higher level thinking skills.

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