

# Imagination and Play

July 2022

All books are available at your local libraries or click on each book cover for read-aloud links!



Scan the QR code!



## Family Activity

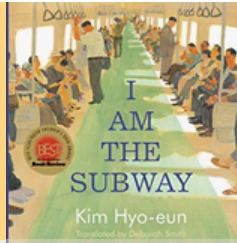
It's possible to play without any toys at all! Children usually begin dramatic or fantasy play around age two. They may pretend that a block building is their house, or that the kitchen is their restaurant. Dramatic play helps kids exercise their imaginations and work on their creativity.

### **Dramatic Play**

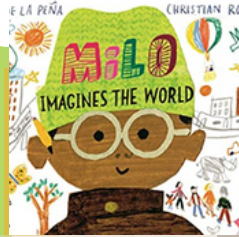
Here are a few pretend scenes to play out:

- **Camping.** Make a "tent" using a blanket and chairs, and say, "Let's pretend to roast marshmallows!" Afterward, you can pretend to get into sleeping bag.
- **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?"
- **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.
- **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 will they grow?
- **Bath time.** Pretend to wash a doll or stuffed animal. Label the body parts you're washing and then dry off and dress the doll. Ask kids what else they might do to take care of a baby, and act it out!

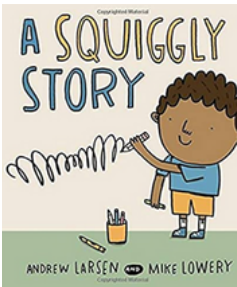
[This activity is inspired by Sesame Street in Communities activity, "Dramatic Play"](#)



**I Am the Subway**  
Kim Hyo-eun



**Milo Imagines the World**  
Matt de la Peña



**A Squiggly Story**  
Andrew Larsen



**I See You See**  
Richard Jackson



**Have You Ever Seen a Flower**  
Shawn Harris



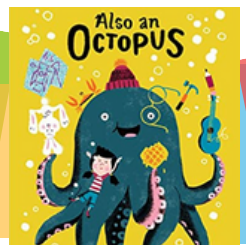
**The Whole Hole Story**  
Vivian McInerney

### Family Reading Tip: Make Reading Fun

One of the best ways to spark imagination is by reading! By reading in new places, such as outdoors, or in an indoor blanket fort, or while wearing funny hats or costumes, you show your child that reading is fun and a positive experience for them! When reading is fun, they'll want to do more of it!



**The Book of Mistakes**  
Corinna Luyken



**Also an Octopus**  
Maggie Tokuda-Hall

An early learning collaboration by:

