

Pretend play: Dressing up and acting out stories

Instructions:

1. Set out a few clothes for your child to play with. Talk about the items. Let your child choose what to put on.
2. Follow your child's lead and pretend the way he chooses.
3. What props does he need? Help him find them around the house.
4. Act out stories. Be your child's play partner.
5. Offer more clothes or props to extend his play.
6. Encourage your child to hang up or put away dress up clothes when he is done. Store clothes where he can reach them.

How to extend the activity:

- As your child gets familiar with the game, you can extend the time of play.

Materials:

- Child size costumes and adult size clothes
- Accessories
- Suitcase
- Props
- Toddler book



What they learn:

- Motor: Your child is using small muscles to put on and take off dress-up clothes
- Cognitive: Your child's imagination and creativity build on experiences he has seen.
- Social emotional: Pretend play helps your child understand the word around him at home, in the neighborhood, and in the community.