

Magic Rock

Primary Objectives

4. Demonstrates traveling skills

Why It's Important

Pretend play allows your child to think and play creatively. Being able to choose how she wants to act out an imaginary scenario helps her feel comfortable and confident during the experience.

Materials

A bell or other noise-making device

What You Do

1. Find an open space indoors or outside where your child can move freely.
2. Invite her to play a game with you. Explain that when your child hears you ring the bell, she should turn into a magic rock and be very still. Then she needs to listen for your question. You will ask her to turn into something else, like a butterfly or a dinosaur. If her answer is *yes*, your child should get up and move like that animal around the room. When she hears the bell ring again, she should stop what she is doing and turn back into a rock.
3. If necessary, demonstrate how to curl your body into a ball to represent a rock. You may also choose to have your child become a magic tree standing very still or a magic flower sitting on the ground.
4. Begin the game by ringing the bell and saying, *Magic rock, magic rock, can you turn into a monkey?*
5. Acknowledge her efforts. *I see you jumping around and scratching your head like a monkey does.*
6. If your child answers *no* to the question, ask a new question. *Okay, the magic rock cannot turn into a monkey. Can you turn into a bumble bee?*
7. Repeat the game for as long as your child is interested, offering any physical assistance needed. Make sure you let your child know when the game is ending. *Okay, magic rock, let's try one last animal before we get ready for snack.*