

Pretend Play: Dressing Up and Acting Out Stories

What to do:

1. Set out a few clothes for your child to play with. Talk about the items. Let your child choose what to put on. "Who wears that?" Let's pretend to be them. "What do they do?"
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. If he is a waiter, he will need paper and a crayon to take orders.
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 where he can reach them.

How to extend activity:

As your child experiences new things, you can add new dress up opportunities into your pretend play.

Materials:

- Costumes or clothes to dress up in, accessories like hats, aprons, purses, etc.
- Props like old phones, cookware, etc.
- A toddler book



What they will learn:

- **Motor Skills:** Your child is using small muscles to put on and take off dress-up clothes.
- **Cognitive Skills:** Your child's imagination and creativity build on experiences he has seen. If he has been to a restaurant, he will understand what a waiter does. If he has seen a baseball game, he can act out being a baseball player.
- **Social-Emotional:** Pretend play helps your child understand the world around him at home, in the neighborhood, and in the community.