

Pretend Play!

It is paradoxical that many educators and parents still differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them - Leo F. Buscaglia

Pretend play is any child directed play where each player takes on a character/role.

Pretend play can happen in independent or cooperative play. Sometimes, children need a 'co-star' in their pretend play but sometimes children will play every role on their own.

Children's environments should be set up to encourage pretend play attempts. Real life materials such as bowls, pots, pans, telephones...etc in the play room will help to encourage pretend play roles and skills.

During pretend play children develop the following:

- Self regulation
- Problem solving skills
- Social skills
- Language and literacy skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Math and physics skills and knowledge
- Small and large muscle control
- An understanding of their world
- A chance to try different roles
- A chance to try new things without fear
- Good self-esteem
- And they get to have fun!

Presented by the York Region Early Literacy Specialists

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