

# An Imaginary World

## Primary Objectives

14b. Engages in sociodramatic play

## Why It's Important

“Pretend,” or dramatic, play is central to children’s healthy development and learning during the preschool years. Dramatic play will allow your child to use his imagination, take on different roles, and recreate his life experiences, many of which relate to family life.

## Materials

None

## What You Do

1. Observe your child pretending to perform a household activity such as cooking dinner or walking the dog during choice time. Ask if you can help, and join in his imaginative play.
2. If he is already developing elaborate situations in his pretend play, suggest a way to extend the scenario, such as *May I set the table?* or *Where do you keep the leash? I'll go get it for you.*
3. If your child is not yet setting up more complex scenarios and you sense that he is ready, consider suggesting ways to extend the scenario. For instance, as he is pretending to stir something in a bowl, ask questions such as *What are you making? How are you planning to cook it?*
4. Offer encouragement and suggestions as needed to keep him interested.