

Pretending

"I'm a mommy and you are a daddy. We are feeding our baby." ~ 33 month old girl

How I pretend:

- I use pretend play to make sense of the world around me.
- I may pretend to eat or drink with a variety of items.
- I pretend with my peers that we are carrying out familiar activities like cooking, cleaning, and yard work.
- I will role-play with a variety of objects and toys.
- I will actively select and engage in a pretend play situation.
- I use different props to carry out my pretend play.
- I pretend to read and write like the adults I see. This helps me make meaning from information around me.
- I may pretend to discipline or teach my doll rules to show that I understand those rules as well.
- I use hats, shoes, dress-up clothes, and other props to pretend I'm someone else.



My caregivers help me pretend by:

- encouraging pretend and make-believe play.
- modeling pretend actions with me as an infant, such as pretending to eat something.
- providing space, time, and materials to pretend with. Make sure to include materials that represent my family and culture.
- providing opportunities for me to play with other children during activities. For example, set up a water table with baby dolls to wash where a small group of children can play.
- talking to me about what other children are doing when they pretend. Help me join the play if possible.
- sharing make-believe stories with me.
- helping me understand what is real and what is pretend.



To learn more about pretending, view the Resources and References found at the end of these materials.