



## Dramatic Play

Dramatic play encourages development of a child's social and emotional skills (sharing, taking turns, conversing, understanding and managing feelings), creativity, problem solving and language skills. Let your child be in charge.

### Dramatic-play props for infants:

- Soft dolls, stuffed animals
- Bottles, blankets, cradle, baby blankets
- Carts, baby carriages
- Pots, pans, plastic dishes, telephone
- Plastic, wood, or rubber cars, planes, trains

### Props to add for toddlers:

- Dress-up clothes, hats, bags, pocketbooks
- Child-sized broom and mop
- Plastic containers and empty food boxes

### Props to add for preschoolers:

- Boxes, blankets, sheets to build forts, caves, etc.
- Play money
- Paper, crayons, markers to make signs, etc.



Want more ideas? Go to:  
[www.topekapublicschools.net](http://www.topekapublicschools.net), [www.ercrefer.org](http://www.ercrefer.org)  
or, watch TPS TV (cable 14)



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## Play With Me!



A child who is playing is learning to experience a new world. Playing fosters a child's separate identity from their parents. It can be observed in many forms: building with blocks, making believe, exploring the outdoors and developing fine motor skills. When there is play, there's wonderful growth and activity in the brain.

What skills do children learn while playing?

- Problem solving
- Playing with others
- Imagination
- Dealing with emotions
- Creativity
- Task completion

What questions encourage thinking?

- What do you sell in your store?
- Where are you taking your baby?
- Doctor, my baby is sick. What is wrong with her?
- Where do you work?

What positive responses promote "trying?"

- You have worked very hard on this!
- I like the way you take care of your baby (or other specific praise).
- You must be very proud of yourself!

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