

A Letter to Families About Dramatic Play

Dear families,

There is so much to love about dramatic play!

With only a few simple props or pieces of clothing, children can use their imaginations to explore new places, relationships, careers, experiences—becoming anything they want to be and traveling anywhere they want to go.

Dramatic play helps children develop the abilities to imagine future experiences and recreate past ones, practice both independence and group social skills, and build language skills such as vocabulary development and the ability to have long conversations.

Throughout the year, the children and I will use our Dramatic Play area in a variety of ways. We will follow the children's lead and interests, and let their imaginations fuel our fun!

When you visit our classroom this year, make sure you take a look at what is going on in our Dramatic Play area. Meanwhile, you can help your child benefit from the many advantages of dramatic play at home quickly and inexpensively.

What You Can Do at Home

- Encourage your child's interest in dramatic play at home by letting her set up areas for pretend play. Remember that settings, props, and costumes can all be created for low—or even no—cost. A large cardboard box can be a bus, a train, a spaceship, a castle . . . anything your child wants it to be.
- Provide simple writing materials (paper, pencils, markers) for your child to use during pretend play. No matter what he is pretending to be, chances are the experience will offer opportunities to make signs, write messages, or draw decorations.
- Give new life to old clothes (particularly clothes with meaning, such as work uniforms), cast-off furniture, broken appliances, and discarded technology by allowing children to add it to the play area.
- Make up pretend scenarios to encourage creative conversation. For example, say to your child, "Let's pretend we are going on a train ride. Where should we go? What should we pack? How will we get our tickets?"