



Thinking Abilities and General Knowledge Activity for 24 to 30 Months

Imaginative Play

Materials:

- Props for dramatic play (plastic food, dishes, pots, pans; dolls, stuffed animals; doctor kit; big, empty box)

What to do:

1. Suggest and act out themes for dramatic play to get the child started:
 - Have a make-believe party or tea party. Cook pretend food, decorate and set the table, give names to the "guests" (dolls and stuffed animals), clean up. Pretend to answer the door when "guests" arrive.
 - Play doctor or hospital. The child can be the doctor, and you or the dolls and stuffed animals can be the patients. Use a child's doctor kit or help the child make a pretend one.
 - Play "house." Give the child pots and pans, plastic dishes, play dough for pretend food, a big box for a pretend stove, sponges and dust cloths, a plastic bin for a pretend sink, stuffed animals and dolls, telephones. Let the child direct the play.
 - Play "waiter." Give the child a pad and pencil to "write" down your order.
2. Demonstrate or make suggestions that encourage a child to expand his regular play into more elaborate "make-believe" play. If he is playing with kitchen utensils, suggest he feed his stuffed animal; if he is lining up blocks, suggest he get a car to drive on the "road" he made.

