



tip of the week

We love watching our kids “betend.” They are so creative! How can we encourage their imaginative play?



Imaginative play is a primary way in which children gain understanding of how life and relationships work. And although they may not enjoy it when *you* dress them up, children “betend” more, and more creatively, when you provide a variety of interesting clothing items and props!

A dress-up box delights young children. Discovering the textures, colors and sizes of items is a learning experience in itself. Whether your dress-up box is a large storage container or an antique trunk, the finest source for items is a grandparent who has never thrown anything away! Your own closet leftovers are also valuable. Items gleaned from family members have the added value of the history that goes with them: “Your daddy wore that vest when he played cowboy, too.” For greater variety, expand your child’s horizons beyond your own family’s fashion sense! Thrift shops and garage sales are a prime resource for anything that can be washed and dried.

Basic home-related costumes and props should always be available. Accumulate sets of theme-related props and clothing items (Bible times, cowboys, explorers, flower shop, yard work, doctor’s office, post office, restaurant, etc.). Place them in clear plastic boxes and rotate the items to keep dramatic play interesting.

