



Imaginary Play

The importance of imaginary play:

- To encourage imagination and creativity
- To support social and emotional development
- To improve language and communication skills
- To develop thinking, learning and problem solving abilities
- To enhance physical development
- It's fun.

“Research has shown that children who are active in imaginary play are usually happier, more cooperative, better able to share and take turns, and have bigger vocabularies.”

What do I need?

Nothing, apart from the time and willingness to join in your child's story.

A few props can help to encourage ideas:

Dressing up clothes such as old hats, bags, beads, scarves, shoes, old mobiles...

A large cardboard box can become a house, car, Tardis, rocket, shop, aeroplane, fort, or even a pirate ship sailing on the high seas.

Smaller boxes could be turned into miniature worlds such as farms, houses, castles etc.

An old sheet or blanket can be a den, cave, spaceship etc.

A few plates and old food boxes can become a kitchen, café or shop.