



The Importance of Playing

- Children learn about language and the world around them through **play**.
- When children **play** they use one object to symbolize another. This symbolic **play** helps them understand that spoken and written words represent real objects and experiences.
- **Play** helps children express themselves and understand the world around them.

Playing activities

- Give your children plenty of opportunities for unstructured and structured **play**.
- Encourage dramatic **play**. Act out stories together with puppets and/or props.
- **Play** restaurant, doctor's office, school, library, etc. Add print to **play** by using items such as, menus for restaurants and prescriptions for doctor **play**.
- **Play** with toys that represent the characters in a book or act out a story with imaginative **play**.

Credit: Every Child Ready to Read @ your library

See the back for more fun ideas!

BACK →



Create Story Puppets

Materials:

Construction paper, craft sticks
glue, scissors, markers and crayons.

Directions:

Cut out shapes from construction paper of familiar story figures or make up your own. Decorate your figures and glue them to the craft sticks.

(From *The Big Book of Pre-K Learning Centers*)

Ways to Play

- Use your puppets to tell a new story or retell an old favorite.
- For story ideas take a look at our "125 Books" wall and be inspired! We also have books on making puppets. Check them out!