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.

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!