

THE POWER OF PRETEND Children's imaginary worlds

Role play with other children is a valuable language-learning experience for a child. When they play teacher or robber or king, children are forced to use more sophisticated language than they would ordinarily use in the course of their daily lives. Playing a powerful role, say, super hero or super heroine, can help them develop self-esteem and empathy for others.

Even the part where children argue over "who plays whom" is important; with this, they are learning to negotiate and cooperate.

How to Encourage Magination in Children

Keep a chest or container with old clothing and props or buy interesting vintage pieces in secondhand stores or at garage sales. Grandparents are a great source too.

Set up a puppet theatre at home, using shadow puppets, toys on hand or even decorated socks. If you have a smartphone with a camera, have the children video the show.



Keep those cardboard boxes! A box can become a castle or a peasant³s hut or a spaceship to Saturn.

Set up an entire children's theatre using blankets as curtains. If your child has 'too many' toys, take some away for short periods and reintroduce at another time. These toys can seem just like new and stimulate imagination.



Children's Literacy Resource Guide Québec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc.

