

# Creativity with Drama and Pretend Play

During pretend play, children use creative thinking and develop their social skills by playing with others. Pretend play experience develops skills to prepare children to be thinkers, team leaders, and innovators. Pretend play leads to real-life learning. **(EI 13.1 Creativity)**

Adult Role	Child	Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select materials to allow children to combine items in complex play</li> <li>• Select interesting materials and make sure there are enough</li> <li>• Observe where children are in their development and interests</li> <li>• Respect children's choices and their desire to play in different ways</li> <li>• Extend the learning but avoid taking over the play</li> <li>• Support imaginative role play</li> <li>• Visit places in the community or school to expand experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first step in pretend play is imitating gestures, sounds, and words.</li> <li>• Use of props in pretend play starts with ready-made objects and then progresses to using an item to represent something else (e.g., a block is a phone).</li> <li>• Pretending alone or with another person is a first step and then often progresses to pretending with a group.</li> <li>• Creative pretend play includes imaging characters and events.</li> <li>• Children may act out books from classroom read alouds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide real objects and create a home-like atmosphere</li> <li>• Include basic props, and change items over time to reflect interests</li> <li>• Add photos of classroom activities</li> <li>• Invite family members to contribute items from their home cultures</li> <li>• Include space for materials to create props (e.g., puppets, dress-up clothes and accessories).</li> </ul> 

References:

Isabell, R. & Yoshizawa, S. (2017). *Nurturing Creativity: An essential mindset for young children's learning*. Washington: NAEYC.

PED. (2019). *New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines*.

Strasser, J., & Bresson, L. M. (2017). *Big questions for young minds: Extending children's thinking*. Washington, D.C.: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The Editors of Teaching Young Children. (2015). *Expressing creativity in preschool*. NAEYC.