

Speech and Language Therapy

Symbolic Play

Lesson number 4 of 14 on Interaction and Communication

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Symbolic Play

Symbolic play is when a child uses one thing to represent something else.

Children need to experience symbolic play, because it helps them to understand that something can represent something else.



Developing Symbolic Play - Top Tips!

Observe the child playing with objects.

Show the child how to act out everyday situations using toys to represent the real object.

Involve Dolly/Teddy in **everyday situations and provide matching objects.**

For example the child can feed teddy whilst he is being fed, or wash dolly's face whilst the child is having her face washed.

Model how to use objects for other things e.g. using a lego brick for a phone.



Extending Symbolic Play

Model and extend play by adding on sequences when acting out situations using toys to represent the real object. Sequenced play is important because it helps a child to recreate events they experience and really understand the world.

For example if the child:

Puts a bottle to doll's mouth, you could add on giving the doll a hug and putting the doll to bed.

Or

If the child presses buttons on a toy phone, you could add on putting the phone to your ear and saying hello.



Symbolic Play Time Diary

Date:

We learnt about

When my adult

I...

Insert picture

