

## SOCIO-DRAMATIC PLAY

### What is Socio-Dramatic Play?

Socio-dramatic play is a type of pretend play in which children take on different roles and act out scenes with one another (e.g., acting out of the roles of server and customer in a restaurant theme).

### Why is it Important?

Socio-dramatic play helps children learn about their world in a way that is both natural and fun. This type of play also stimulates critical thinking and language skills that are important for academic and social success.

### How to Maximize Learning During Play

#### Before Play

- If your child is new to pretend play, start with familiar scenarios such as house, doctor, or grocery store.
- Read related stories with your child to expand his/her understanding of a theme. Familiarity with the associated vocabulary, events and actions, and possible problems and solutions, will lead to more sophisticated play.
- Include props that encourage talking (e.g., puppets, microphones, telephones, tape recorders).
- Also include materials that naturally promote an interest in purposeful reading and writing (e.g., signs, coupons, pens, paper, calendars, clipboards, labels, envelopes, etc.).

#### During Play

- Let your child decide on roles and direct storylines. Doing so helps to develop planning and negotiation skills and enhances sustained interest and engagement.
- Join in on the play by asking your children to assign you a role. During play, you can offer extra support by modelling appropriate language.
- If your child is already familiar with a theme, you can challenge him/her by introducing an unexpected problem to solve. For example, when playing restaurant, announce that the oven has suddenly broken down and ask what to do.



*"Play is a vehicle for learning and lies at the core of innovation and creativity. It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive. Play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children, and learning and doing are also inextricably linked for them."*

- Full Day Kindergarten Curriculum (pg. 13)

