

# DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

## *Doctor's Office Edition*

### SET UP

Play allows children to develop their imaginations and physical, cognitive, and emotional skills. With something as simple as a pretend doctor's office, your child can work on many early literacy skills all through play.

- Create a doctor's office for your child to play pretend.
- If you don't have a doctor's play kit, no problem. Collect a few items and pretend.
- Save the syringes and cups from children's Tylenol
- Cotton balls, band-aids, ace bandages, paper, and a space like the living room is all you need. Their imaginations will do the rest.



### READING

Anytime you need to give your child medicine, show them the bottle and read things from it with them. This will help enforce their letter recognition and show them that print is everywhere and that it connects to language.



### WRITING

Explain to your child what a prescription is and how it is often needed to get medicine from the pharmacy. Then, have them write prescriptions for their "patients" on scraps of paper as they play pretend as a doctor. Even if they can't write yet, the scribbling will help them build their future writing skills.



## TALKING

As a doctor's appointment approaches, talk about all of the things that will happen at the doctor. How they will check weight and height, look into your ears, nose, and mouth. They may press on your tummy or neck. Go through these motions at home as you talk about each one to help with any nervousness or fear.

## SINGING

### *Doctor Day!*

Sing this rhyme before going to the doctor for a check-up.

*My daddy said, "It's doctor day,"  
Then he and I were on our way,  
To see our friend, the doctor who,  
Would check me out, as doctors do.  
She had more things, than I can tell,  
To help her keep the people well.  
She checked me up and all the while,  
She wore a big and friendly smile.  
So now I hope that someday you,  
May go to see the doctor too!*



## PLAYING

Set up a pretend doctor's office and play with your child. After you model some play, turn it over to them to see where they take it! Are their dolls sick with fevers? Maybe you are their patient and you have a cold. Give them the space to learn and explore though pretend play as you stand back and watch.

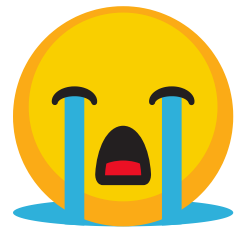


## MPL Doctor's Office

Patient name:

Temperature:

Today the patient feels:



Symptoms:

Treatment:

Doctor's name: