

DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

Pizzeria Edition

SET UP

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

- Use a cardboard box to create a "pizza oven" for your child to decorate.
- Fill empty plastic jars with cut up bits of colored paper as "spices"
- Cut large circles out of cardboard to act as "pizza crusts"
- Cut colored paper, felt scraps, and yarn pieces for "toppings"
- Set the table like a restaurant
- Set aside paper to create "menus"



READING

Although this is pretend play, you could make a real pizza with your little one! Follow a recipe and show them how each measurement is written out and how the directions are structured. This helps enforce letter knowledge as you talk about the letters you see in the recipe.



WRITING

Every pizzeria has a menu. Have your child create a menu for their pizza restaurant. Take a piece or two of paper and fold it in half. Even if they can't write yet, they can scribble on it to create their menu. And you can help them write what they aren't able to.





TALKING

After you have set up a place for your child to make pretend pizzas, talk with them as they play. Name the ingredients that you have made to use, point out the pizza oven, and talk about what you should put on the menu for their restaurant. This will help build their narrative skills.

SINGING

Five Little Pizzas

*Five little pizzas all in a row
The first one said, "I'm made with pepperoni, you know"
The second one said, "I'm made with sausage and cheese."
The third one said, "Don't eat me, please."
The fourth one said, "I'll be your dinner tonight,"
The fifth one said, "someone has taken a bite!"
Five little pizzas all in a row.
Would YOU like to eat them?*



PLAYING

Once your pizzeria is set up, make pretend pizzas with your child and see where they take it. What silly ingredient are they adding to your pizza? After modeling some play, let them take the lead and see where it goes.