

DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

Classroom & Library Edition

SET UP

Play helps children explore new things about their world and develop the social and emotional skills they will need as they get older. Something as simple as playing school will help your child build many early skills, including self-regulation, empathy, and cooperation.

- Set up a classroom using cardboard boxes for desks and cushions or pillows for chairs. Invite some of your child's favorite stuffed animals or other toys to join the class and learn.
- If space allows, designate an area of the classroom to be the class library and stock this area with a small collection of books
- Let your child explore the space, whether as the teacher, the school librarian, or something else entirely. Join them in their play to see where this exploration takes them!



READING

Does your child have a favorite bedtime story? Gather your classroom "chairs" in a circle, make sure all your stuffed animal students are settled in, and read that story together as a part of the class Circle Time. You can ask questions as you read or pause to talk about their favorite parts.



WRITING

Use construction paper to make signs and posters to put up around the classroom. Put up a sign for the classroom library, for instance, or fold pieces of paper in half to make name signs for each desk. You can also cut out smaller squares of paper to make each member of the class their own library card.





TALKING

Talk with your child as you explore their play classroom. Ask them questions about what they are doing and encourage them to teach you to do it too. If they are looking at a book, for example, have them tell you what it's about as they turn the pages, or if they are scribbling on a piece of paper, ask them about what they are working on.

SINGING

*If You're a Reader
and You Know It*

*(to the tune of "If You're Happy
and You Know It")*

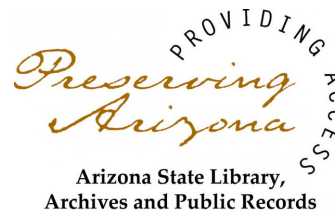
*If you're a reader and you know it, clap your hands
If you're a reader and you know it, clap your hands
If you're a reader and you know it
Then your face will surely show it
If you're a reader and you know it, clap your hands*

** Stamp your feet
* Say "shh, I'm reading"*



PLAYING

As they play, your child can tell stories to their toys, use crayons and scrap paper to make report cards, or grade homework using stamps or stickers. By providing a small number of supplies, you are opening your child up to endless opportunities to let their creativity run wild.



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