



Imaginative Play Form

Curriculum Supports: PRT

Imaginative play is a more advanced form of play involving some combination of the following:

- Storylines – acting out a story with pretend characters and multiple props
- Dramatic play – the student pretends that they are a certain person or character through language and dress-up
- Symbolic play – pretending that a toy or object represents another object
- Multi-step play – chaining many steps of play together to remain engaged with a toy for longer periods of time

The teacher’s role in imaginative play varies at each level:

- At Level 1 and Level 2, students rely on adult guidance to engage in imaginative play.
- The adult cues simple tasks (“do this”, one-step directions) related to an imaginative play scenario for Level 1.
- For Level 2, the adult helps to facilitate longer storylines by combining toys together, encouraging multi-step play, and encouraging students to use language to tell the story.
- At Level 3, the adult encourages students to play together to create imaginative play scenarios but may offer suggestions and visual supports to help guide play.

Activity and Level (Student expected response)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3/School Readiness
Birthday Party	Performs a simple task related to the activity Put candles on a pretend birthday cake	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Puts on candles, sings Happy Birthday, blows out candles	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Using a plate to be the cake, makes pretend candles from pegs, invites peers to party
Dress Up	Performs a simple task related to the activity Puts on a hat	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Dresses up like a character (fireman, police, doctor)	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Using a box for a firetruck, block or tube for fire hose, enact a storyline
Shopping at the Store	Performs a simple task related to the activity Pushes the buttons on a cash register	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Puts items in shopping cart, gives money to purchase, puts money in cash register	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Uses a table to set up store with items to sell, makes pretend money out of paper, plays multiple roles at the store (cashier, shopper, clean-up crew)
Caring for a Baby, Doll, or Animal	Performs a simple task related to the activity Puts the doll or animal in bed, hugs/kisses doll, or feeds the doll or animal	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Feeds the baby multiple foods, bathes the baby, changes the baby, puts baby to bed with blanket	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Makes the babies bed from blocks, performs multiple actions at once, creates a storyline
Doll House	Performs a simple task related to the activity Doll goes in house, put doll on bed/ chair, doll walks/jumps around	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Set up rooms with furniture, put doll in more than one room, feed doll, multiple dolls play together	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Use multiple dolls to act out different actions, dolls talk to each other to create a storyline
Cooking/Kitchen	Performs a simple task related to the activity Puts food in pan, puts food on plate, turn knob or push button on stove	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Puts food in pan and stir the food, serves the food, pretends to eat the food, washes dishes	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Prepares a meal following a recipe, assigning multiple student roles (cook, server, customer)
Doctor or Vet Office	Performs a simple task related to the activity Simple actions with doctor tools (squeeze syringe, squeeze blood pressure pump), put bandage on doll or animal	Performs more steps with adult assistance and uses props related to the activity Gives doll/pet medicine, puts on a bandages, takes temperature, use doctor/vet tools for their intended purpose	Creates a play scenario assigning student roles, using objects to pretend, and following multi-step directions related to the activity Establishes why the doll/pet is sick and performs steps of diagnosing the issue, assign roles (vet, customer, patient)



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Birthday Party	Dress Up	Shopping at the Store	Taking Care of a Baby/Pet	Dollhouse	Cooking/ Kitchen	Doctor or Vet Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeting friends • Play a game • Putting candles on the cake (How many?) • Sing Happy Birthday • Blow out the candles • Pretend to eat cake • Open pretend presents • Say goodbye to friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put on costumes • Make pretend hats for characters (fireman, construction worker, police, princess) • Pretend to drive vehicle • Perform character duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put out fires • Rescue people • Build something • Make a phone call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet the shopper • Set up a pretend store (groceries, toys, pet) • Use a basket to shop for items • Purchase the items • Use the cash register • Take the money • Bag the items • Thank the customer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hug/kiss the baby or pet • Comb hair, brush fur • Feed with a spoon/bottle • Rock the baby/ animal • Sing to the baby • Cover with a blanket/put to bed • Dress the baby/pet • Change diaper • Pat the baby or pet • Give a bath with soap and water • Take pet on a walk with a leash • Put baby in a stroller for a walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up the various rooms • Act out different story lines with multiple characters • Character figures can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sit at the table • go to bed • take a bath • use the potty • sit in chair • lay in bed • climb stairs • plant a garden • play outside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the table • Put food in pots, pans, oven, microwave • Prepare the food (wash, cut, open can) • Follow a recipe, cook the food • Serve the food, pretend to eat the food • Wash dishes, put dishes away • Act out character roles (chef, server, customer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take temperature • Listen to the heartbeat • Takes blood pressure • Looks in eyes, nose, throat • Gives medicine • Gives a shot • Puts on a bandage • Gives a prescription