



PLAY: Functional 3 [F3]

Child includes a doll/action figure in simple pretend play with toys

Purpose

- To help your child expand his/her pretend play to dolls and stuffed animals.
- To help your child start to include a doll or some other figure (e.g., dinosaur, stuffed animal) into his/her pretend play.

Description

This occurs when the child uses a toy to act on a doll/action figure. Playing with toys in a functional way directed towards a doll/action figure shows the child is realizing that dolls/action figures represent a pretend person/animal in play.

- Puts a doll in bed to sleep
- Gives a bottle to the baby
- Gives a piece of food to a dog puppet
- Uses a toothbrush to brush a doll's teeth

Activities

- *Playtime with dolls/animals:* Use dolls or stuffed animals and pretend that they are real. You can set them up to play “school” or have them “sing” songs with your child. You can also use a toy phone and pretend that someone has called to talk to the doll/animal. Another option is to use pretend dinosaurs or other animals that can go look for a home or go search for food. This is a great opportunity to include siblings or friends as examples.



- *Playtime with cars/trains and small toys:* Small animal toys and action figures can pretend to drive and ride in cars, move around a doll house, and do different house activities.
- *Bath Time:* If you have plastic animals, you can pretend they are going for a swim in the bath or “ocean”
- *Bedtime:* Your child can tuck in a doll or stuffed animal, feed a doll a bottle before bed, or tell them a story as part of your bedtime routine.

Strategies

- *Model play with animation* – include dolls/action figures as you play and be loud and silly with them to get your child’s attention (e.g., doll “eating” food, stuffed bear “eats” food)
- *Incorporate pretending and toys into routines and activities* – use everyday routines to model pretending (e.g., when you’re brushing teeth, have a toy and a toy toothbrush near-by to “pretend” to brush the toy’s teeth)
- *Arrange environment* – be sure that dolls/action figures are accessible to child as he/she plays
- *Provide visuals* – show your child pictures of people playing with dolls/action figures to encourage him/her to include them in play
- *Expand to show my child the next developmental step* – add a figure into a preferred play activity (i.e., add a doll/figure to drive a car)

Suggested Toys

- Dolls/action figures
- Play phone
- Play diapers
- Toy animals/dinosaurs
- Kitchen toys
- Stuffed animals

Goal Mastery

An ASAP Goal is mastered if your child meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Shows the skill at least three times
- Shows the skill during different activities or in different settings such as during snack time, during playtime, or at the grocery store.
- Shows the skill with minimal help or support from an adult