



PLAY: Symbolic 7 [S7]

Child takes on a pretend role in play that other people direct

Purpose

- To give your child a role to take on in pretending.

Description

This occurs when the child pretends to be another person or character in a play routine when another person suggests it. Taking on a role in play shows the child is beginning to understand that s/he can pretend to be someone other than him/herself during play routines.

- Acts like the dad while playing house based on a peer's suggestion
- Pretends to be a waiter while playing restaurant based on a teacher's suggestion
- Acts like the nurse based on therapist's suggestion

Activities

- *Playtime:* Your child can pretend to be a customer at a store or restaurant while you are the server/cashier. Then you can trade roles. Have your child be the patient and you can be the doctor. Trade rolls as the scenarios become more familiar to your child and add new roles. Be a bus driver and pretend a box is a bus. Pick up your child as a passenger. You can then switch roles.
- *Bath Time:* Your child can pretend to be a sailor on a boat
- *At the Park or Outside:* You and your child can pretend to be explorers. You can have a map to follow or just explore on your own! You can pretend to be superheroes (and you



can “fly” on the swings or slide). This is a good chance to use siblings who can take on roles in pretend.

Strategies

- *Provide visual and verbal cues to your child* – show your child pictures of roles he/she may take on during play and give your child verbal directions regarding what role to play. For example, Say: “You (child) be the doctor, I’ll be the patient”; “I’ll be the mom and you be the baby”

Suggested Toys

- Dress up clothes
- Toy doctor kit
- Cash register
- Notepad/pencil
- Toy foods

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