

Play, Conversation and Interaction // Aged 3 - 4



Encourage 'make-believe' play and act out pretend situations with dolls or teddies e.g., bedtime, tea party, school, hospitals, etc.

Provide children with a range of 'role play' areas, e.g.

- Shops - supermarket, pet shop, chemists...
- Local services - post office, doctors, dentist...
- Transport – a bus, train, boat, spaceship...
- Restaurants – pizzeria, ice-cream shop...
- Other locations - Castle, cave, jungle...

A role play 'buddy' may support other children to develop their pretend play skills.

Provide old clothes to dress up in so children can pretend to be different people, e.g., nurse, mummy/daddy, shopkeeper, etc.

Provide children with costumes or masks so they can act out familiar stories.



Talk to children about the things that interest them – favourite toys, outings, and stories are good topics of conversation at this age.

It is important to give the child your full attention when you are talking. You can model taking turns to talk, eye contact, making comments and asking questions. They may not be ready to apply these skills but will be learning about them!

