

# Dramatic Play Tips

Use the IQ Guide for the Learning Environment to ensure that all required items are present. The Dramatic Play Area/Center should be large enough, so that several children playing can be active and noisy without interrupting other activities. This area should be one of the largest in the classroom and accommodate five or more children.

## Furnishings:

### ⇒ Housekeeping furniture (3 types/purposes):

Stove Sink Refrigerator Hutch Grill Washing Machine

### ⇒ Dress-up clothing storage: Dress-up clothes should be organized and visible so children can see their choices. Some of the clothes should be hung so children can clearly see them.

Additional clothing can be stored in drawers, storage bins or tubs. These should be sorted, organized and clearly labeled with words and pictures. Dress-up clothing should be rotated to maintain interest throughout the year.

### ⇒ Table and chairs: A small table and chairs should be included in the dramatic play area.

### ⇒ Basic shelving for housing dramatic play materials

## Ensure the following basic materials are accessible, labeled, and organized:

**Dolls:** At least 5 culturally diverse dolls are required.

**Dress-up props and accessories:** Examples include: purses, hats, shoes, a briefcase, etc.

**Full-length mirror:** As children dress-up, they are able to look at themselves and see their entire body. For many children, this may be a first.

**A variety of quality dress-up clothes are accessible (minimum of 6 types):** Clothing choices should include a variety of items with which children can identify as a part of their everyday lives. Examples include:

### Fantasy or

### Story Book Characters

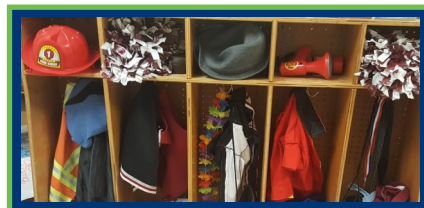
Princesses, Superheroes, etc.

### Attire reflective of different cultures

African Dashiki and Kufi/Wrap Hat, Latino Shirt with Serape, Native American attire, etc.

### Community Workers

Mail Carrier, Doctor, Fire Fighter, Police Officer, etc.



### Fancy dress-up clothing

Sequin Dresses, Suits, Dressy Hats, Gowns, etc.

### Work attire

Overalls, Dress Shirts, Dress Jackets, Uniforms from local businesses, etc.



# Dramatic Play Tips (Continued)

**📦 Props for kitchen play may include:**

Eating Utensils      Dishes      Pots      Pretend Food      Cooking Utensils  
Rolling pin      Egg Beaters      Pans      Toy Appliances      Dish Towels

**📦 Props for cleaning play may include:**

Sponges      Mop      Broom      Dust Pan      Bucket      Toy Vacuum

**📦 Props and furniture for pretend play with babies (3 types) Examples include:**

Baby Bed      High Chair      Blankets      Bottles      Diaper Bag      Baby Clothes

**📦 Collection of empty containers:** A collection of empty containers should be included in the dramatic play area. Ensure all containers are clean before placing them in the center. Include recycled materials such as:

Food Boxes      Detergent Bottles      Spice Bottles      Milk Cartons      Juice Bottles

**📦 Additional housekeeping accessories (3 Types) Examples include:**

Ironing Board/Iron      Telephone      Cash Register      Clock      Pet Dishes

**📦 Props to encourage beginning reading and writing skills:**

Menus      Magazines      Cook Books      Clipboards with Paper  
Notepads      Coupons      Logos      Signs Related to Theme  
Phone Message Pads      Food Labels      Food Pyramid      Catalogs  
USDA's MyPlate      Phone Books      Junk Mail      Pens and Pencils

**📦 At least one Prop box for an additional dramatic play theme:** Prop boxes should have an adequate number of props to foster meaningful play experiences related to the intended theme. Please see **Additional Dramatic Play Themes** for more information and ideas.

