

# DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

## *Grocery Store Edition*

### SET UP

Play allows children to develop their imaginations and physical, cognitive, and emotional skills. With something as simple as a pretend grocery store, your child can work on many early literacy skills all through play.

- Set up shelves for your child to "shop"
- Use empty boxes from familiar foods like cereal and pasta
- Create your own "foods" with found objects from around the house
  - Old shoeboxes can be decorated by children
  - Cut out fruit and vegetables from paper for children to color
- Bonus: create a check-out station!
  - Throw a towel down as the "conveyor belt" that leads to the cash register
  - Use an old shallow box as the cash register
  - Make coupons for the items in your store



### READING

As your child "shops" their pretend store you can read some of the food labels with them. This is also a great time to introduce new vocabulary words. Do you always say "pasta"? What about linguini, penne, rotini, etc.



### WRITING

To introduce the concept of money and paying for food, have your children make their own play money with paper and crayons.



## TALKING

When you come home from the grocery store, have your child help you unload the groceries and put them away. Talk about the items as you see them. Ask them to separate the fruits from the vegetables. See if they can pick out all of the red items. What about all of the items that need to go into the fridge?

## SINGING

*The Vegetable Song*  
to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

*Carrots, Peas, and Broccoli,  
Vegetables are good for me.  
For my snack and in my lunch,  
Veggie sticks are great to munch.  
Carrots, Peas, and Broccoli,  
Vegetables are good for me.*



## PLAYING

Play with your child in this environment and see where they take it. Tell them to plan a pretend dinner, do the shopping, and get it ready. Maybe it can end in a pretend picnic on the living room floor!