

DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

Gardening Edition

SET UP

Play sparks creativity and helps children develop critical thinking skills by allowing them to explore scenarios and experiment with different outcomes. By doing something as simple as pretending to garden, your child can build many early literacy skills, all through play.

- Use cardboard boxes to create pretend garden boxes. You can cut slits on the top where craft sticks or pipe cleaners can be inserted as pretend plants or flowers.
- If you have styrofoam you can use use blocks of this to do the same.
- Gather paper for your child to make flowers, fruits, and veggies from.
- Give them a variety of supplies and let them choose what to make.



READING

Plant a real garden with your child! Have them help you pick out seeds and read each package to them. Show them where it says the name of the plant, the time of year it should be planted, etc. While you read these to them you can explain the process of planting seeds and what they need to thrive.



WRITING

Have your child plan out their pretend garden on paper. If they aren't able to write yet, you can help them! Ask them what they would like to put in the garden and write the names of plants down. Then ask them to draw pictures of them by the names. This helps them connect the words to the objects.



TALKING

Talk to your child about their favorite foods and how they came to be. Have they ever tried a fresh garden tomato? Talk to them about how many foods that they eat may start out as seeds and grow into the foods they love.

SINGING

The Farmer Plants the Seed
to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

*The farmer plants the seeds
The farmer plants the seeds
Hi, Ho and Cherry O
The farmer plants the seeds*

**Repeat with:
The rain begins to fall
The sun begins to shine
The plants begin to grow
The buds all open up
The flowers smile at me*



PLAYING

By providing your child with a limited amount of supplies you may be surprised at what their imaginations come up with to create their pretend garden. Ask them to pick you a bouquet of flowers from their garden. Or maybe they're growing vegetables. Ask them to tell you about it!

