

# DRAMATIC PLAY TIPS

## *House Edition*

### SET UP

Play helps children explore new things about their world and develop the social and emotional skills they will need as they get older. You don't need a fancy play kitchen for your child to play house. These simple items and tips will help your child build many skills, including self-regulation, empathy, and cooperation - all through play.

- Set up plastic storage containers in an area outside, fill one with dirt/mud.
- Add in kitchen items like spoons, spatulas, or whisks and old pots and pans.
- If you have outdoor seating, set it up nearby as the "kitchen table"
- If there are dolls or stuffed animals you don't mind getting dirty, add them to the seats!



### READING

Next time you do laundry, ask your child to help you. You can show them the tags of each item and read the instructions to them. This reinforces that print is everywhere. You can also talk to them about the symbols and explain what these each mean.



### WRITING

Help your child make signs for their house outside. What do they want them to say? Have them write them or help them if they can't write yet. If you write it out, they can decorate it. They could even make a "welcome" door mat out of construction paper to put at the entrance.



# TALKING

As your child explores the simple environment you have set up, talk to them about what they are doing. Ask them if they are cooking something in their kitchen. Will they be feeding their animals/dolls lunch? What types of ingredients can they find outside to add to their concoction? Encourage them to tell you about their process.

# SINGING

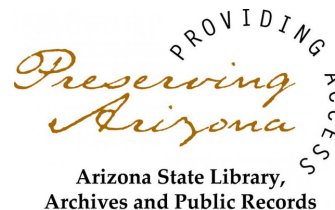
*Here is a House*

Here is a house built up high  
(hands over head to make a roof)  
With two big chimneys reaching for the sky  
(raise arms up high)  
Here is a window  
(draw a square)  
Here is a door  
(pretend to open a door)  
If we look inside  
(peek through fingers)  
There's a mouse on the floor!  
(scamper fingers away)



# PLAYING

If you have a squeegee and a spray bottle, show your little one how to use them to clean the windows. Otherwise, use a rag. Even though this is a household chore, they will have tons of fun! Pretend you're wiping away all of the icky germs that have stuck to the window and make it into a game.



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