

Camp Imagination

Week Five: Doctor

Kids love to play doctor And there are benefits to this type of imaginary play:

1. It helps the child be at ease during his visits to the doctor.
2. It provides an opportunity for the child to role-play medical scenarios, including basic first aid and other emergencies.
3. It helps the child practice his communication skills and helps increase the child's vocabulary.
4. It teaches the child empathy for people who are unwell, and inspires him to do something to help them.

Craft: *X is for X-Ray* - supplies in craft room

Playing Doctor at Imagination Avenue: Our doctor's office is perfect for imaginary play. Kids can take care of the baby dolls from giving them a route check up to checking them into the "hospital".

Take on a role too (a secondary role): You want your child to direct the entire play scene as much as possible. You want her to tell you what to do and what will come next. If the child is unclear about what the main person does, you can give suggestions, but try hard not to take over. For example, your son could be the doctor and you could be the patient or the father of a sick baby. First your baby could be sick with a fever. Encourage your child to tell you what to do. Ask, "What's going to happen next?" When your child directs the play, you are promoting planning skills that are a part of self-regulation. Help your child expand the roles and add to the script. "Now, what could happen next? Can we pretend that we had to go to the hospital in an ambulance? What else could happen?" Add onto the ideas you have already played out.

Dramatic Play Props - You don't need a fancy toys for kids to play "doctor". Here is a list of props around the house that could be used to spark creativity:

- bulb suction syringe
- medicine cup
- ace bandage
- band aids
- empty travel size bottle for pretend medicine
- plastic thermometer
- syringe used to dispense infant medicine
- clipboard with paper and pens
- cotton balls & swabs
- craft stick for a tongue depressor
- man's shirt for doctor's coat
- stuffed animals
- dolls/doll beds
- gauze
- rubber gloves
- small flashlight
- Strips of cloth
- surgical masks/booties
- clear cosmetic bag for doctor bag

10614 N 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85028



imagination
avenue

www.imaginationavenue.us
602-765-3192