

FRIDGE NOTES: IMAGINATIVE PLAY

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Most young children engage in imaginative play easily and naturally. Here's how you can help:

- **Provide opportunities, space and props.** For example, a blanket for a tent, empty toilet rolls taped together to use as binoculars, box of dress-up clothes can be used to encourage and maintain your child's interest.
- **Participate some of the time.** You will make a great giant, troll, or even a hero who saves the day! Take your lead from your child. You can also suggest you both act out a favourite story. Invite other family members or your child's friends to play too.
- **Invite your child to make up stories and tell them to you or to tell you a true story about something that has happened or they have done.** Be sure to be attentive and listen closely [Turn off the TV so your child won't get distracted].



Tips and Suggestions

Almost any favourite story can be acted out. If your child needs more "actors" to play some of the parts, he/she can use puppets or stuffed animals to help out!

Don't always expect your child to act out the story completely accurately. Allow your child to take liberties with the tale. This is a sure sign that they likely know the story inside-out and backwards and that their creative juices are flowing!

Stories to Act Out:

Fairy Tales

- The Three Pigs
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- Red Riding Hood

Mother Goose Rhymes

- Old Mother Hubbard
- Jack and Jill
- Little Miss Muffet

Picture Books for Imaginative Play:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Bark George by Jules Feiffer

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

If You Give A Mouse A Cookie by Laura Numeroff

The Mitten by Jan Brett

The Three Bears by Jan Brett

The Gingerbread Man by Jan Brett

The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone

Who Sank The Boat by Pamela Allen

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

Not a Box by Antionette Portis

Not a Stick by Antionette Portis

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Flemming

Imagine by Alison Lester

The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone

The Three Little Pigs by Paul Galdone

