



Learning Through Dramatic Play

"When you are curious you find lots of interesting things to do." ~ Walt Disney

When children play they are using their bodies and their minds. Play gives children opportunities to move their bodies in different ways and gives their minds a chance to create imaginary scenes or imitate real life scenarios.



Encouraging Early Learners in Brazos Valley

2017—Quarter 4

Dramatic Play

Dramatic play, or pretend play, is a type of play where children take on different roles and then act them out in real or imaginary environments. In this type of play children try on real life or pretend roles and learn skills they will need as adults.



Children make plans with their friends, they assign roles to each other, they negotiate the rules for the play, and they decide the materials they will need to accomplish their goal. Dramatic play allows children to take another person's perspective, negotiate terms for the play, and even deal with the disappointment of not getting their way.

These pretend experiences also allow children to develop skills such as math, literacy and social studies. Dramatic play can promote literacy by encouraging children to write scripts or create props such as menus or signs. When your child takes on roles such as a pirate or a farmer, it gives you the opportunity to teach them about social studies.

Dramatic play engages children in learning because they are having fun.

Dramatic Play Matters

Pretend play helps children learn about themselves; what they like and what fun is for them. They learn to manage their feelings and deal with conflict when they play with other children who may not think exactly like them. They learn about the world around them and they learn more about how their bodies move in the world.

Children are exposed to new vocabulary words as they explore different topics. Imagine all the new words your child will learn when you talk about space, jungle animals, baking, doctor's office's... Oh the possibilities!

We have listed a few wonderful websites here that have great information on Dramatic Play.

- [Community Playthings](#)
- [Zero To Three](#)
- [Early Childhood Teacher](#)
- [Texas Childcare Solutions](#)
- [Child Care Encyclopedia](#)
- [Infant-Toddler TAMU](#)

Supporting Creativity

- ★ Allow time for your child to play.
- ★ Provide materials like dolls, boxes, blocks, and dress up clothes.
- ★ Make time to spend with your child during play.
- ★ Read stories with your child to inspire ideas for pretend play.
- ★ Build props with your child to enhance creativity.

What's Inside?!

Dramatic Play	1
Dramatic Play Matters	1
Growth & Development	2
Parent Policies	2
Family Activities	2
Provider Policies	3
Dramatic Play DIY	3
Curriculum Enrichment	3
Quality Child Care	4

Growth and Development

Incredible Infants (0-9 months):

Guess What?! I can hold my head up when you put me on my tummy. Please put me on the floor and let me use my growing body to see the world!

Mobile Movers (9-24 months):

Guess What?! I am curious about my world. Please provide me with a safe place to explore and practice walking.

Terrific Two's:

Guess What?! I am learning many new words. Please read books to me and talk to me about pictures, pointing out different objects on the pages.



To learn more about developmental milestones, visit CDC.gov

"Look At Me" Three's:

Guess What?! I am really big now, I can throw a ball and build with blocks. Please play with me, it helps me learn!

Fantastic Four's:

Guess What?! I can run, skip, hop, and climb. I would like to learn to ride a bike. Please teach me how, make sure I wear a helmet and stay outside with me while I ride!

Remember! Every child develops at his or her own pace. Be patient with your child and encourage them to explore!

Parent Policies - Protect Your Child Care Services

If you receive Child Care Subsidies, you are **REQUIRED** to report any household changes that might effect your eligibility within **14 calendar days**.

Changes to Report—A few examples:

1. Updated contact information including physical or mailing address, phone number, or emergency contact.
2. Change in household composition or size (increase or decrease).

To Report a Change, Call:
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2105
Or Email:
CCMS@bvcog.org

3. Loss of job, new job, or other job changes, temporary or permanent, including a pay raise, bonus, and an increase or decrease in hours.
4. Any other change in your life which could affect your eligibility.

Remember! If you do not notify us of changes that make you ineligible for services, you will be responsible for paying back all child care payments made during that time.

It is always better to call and ask if it affects your eligibility than to find out later.

Family Activities

You can help create areas within your home that encourage dramatic play. When you participate in dramatic play with your child, you support and help shape your child's abilities in all areas of development which contribute to your child's success in life.

COGNITIVE. Help your child plan and organize the pretend play. Ask your child questions about his/her ideas for the characters or the scene. Asking your child questions about what will happen next encourages your child to plan ahead and teaches your child about cause and effect relationships.

PHYSICAL. Help your child construct the scenes for the pretend play. Allow your child to take the lead when building and encourage him/her to try new things.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL. Help your child work with others in assigning roles and dealing with disappointment when your child does not get the role he/she wanted.

LANGUAGE. Help your child build his/her language skills. During play, engage your child in conversation using new words to describe items or situations. Ask questions and listen for their responses.

The best part is, you get to play too!

Activity Corner

Tea or Lunch Parties

How would you like to have a tea party with a beautiful princess or eat lunch with your favorite superhero? Your child will love getting dressed up for the party—especially if you will be there!

What you need:

- * Paper cups and plates
- * A few snacks from your kitchen
- * Imagination and conversation

A photograph showing a man and a young child sitting at a table. They are surrounded by colorful paper plates and cups, engaged in a pretend tea or lunch party. The man is holding a red cup to his lips, and the child is also holding a cup.

Provider Policies - Parent Share of Cost & Difference in Cost of Care

When a Child Care Services Specialist calls to inform you of any new referrals, they will mail out a 2450 Authorization Form. This form confirms the child's name, the approved referral dates, and Parent Share of Cost—amount paid to you by the parent.

In addition to the Parent Share of Cost, there are two types of fees that you may be able to charge CCS parents. They are:

1. Difference in Cost of Care—This is the amount you are allowed to charge that is the difference between your published rate and the rate that CCS pays—**IF** a difference exists.

CCS Provider
Specialist

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243

CCMS@bvcoq.org

2. Additional Fees—Any fees that are not included in your daily rate, such as meals, transportation, and special activities or field trips.

There are fees that you are NOT allowed to charge the parent. Those fees include:

1. Registration Fees
2. Supply Fees
3. Curriculum Fees

For more information on what you should and should not be charging CCS parents, please read the [Provider Handbook!](#)

Dramatic Play DIY (Do-It-Yourself)

Your child likely already engages in some type of dramatic play scenario, but you may want to help expand their interests. Great idea!

Sometimes just providing the materials and suggestions for a new type of play is all it takes to spark your child's interest in taking on a whole new world. Here is a list of items you might already have that your child can use in their pretend play! How many more items can you think of that your child could use?!

Household Materials for Dramatic Play:

- * Storage Boxes or Empty Shoe Boxes
- * Laundry Baskets
- * Pots, Pans, and Wooden Spoons
- * Scraps of Materials or Wood
- * Paper Grocery Bags
- * Paper, Markers, and Glue
- * Ribbon, String, and Yarn
- * Hats, Scarfs, and Gloves
- * Old Bed Sheets and Pillows



Inspirational Websites:

- ✓ [Scholastic](#)
- ✓ [Pre-K Pages](#)
- ✓ [Play to Learn Preschool](#)
- ✓ [Life as Mama](#)
- ✓ [Kids Play Box](#)

Curriculum Enrichment - Activities & Tips

Magnetic Pictures:

- ✓ Photos of Family & Friends
- ✓ Thin Flat Magnets
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue

With your child, cut out the photos and glue magnets to the backs. This will help your child will learn about their family members and friends. To change it up, cut out pictures from magazines or have your child draw pictures to add to your collection. Help your child arrange the pictures to create a story.



Discs for Babies:

- ✓ Baby Food Jar Lids
- ✓ Plastic Containers or Empty Tissue Boxes

Collect the lids from the baby food jars, wash them well. Give your baby a pile of lids and empty plastic containers. Allow your child to explore the items and sort them as he/she wants.

You may build your child's vocabulary by talking about what you see your baby doing. Even if your baby cannot answer, ask your baby questions and provide answer options.

What Does Quality Care Mean and Why Does It Matter?

Research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive relationships and experiences during the first few years of life. Choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child as they spend a good portion of their first few years in the care of someone other than their parents or family members.

You might want to visit several different child care programs, either centers or homes, before you decide which is best for your family. Call each child care program and schedule an appointment for your visit. Once there, watch activities, check the surroundings, and ask questions. Find a program that is convenient, open when you need it, and will have a long lasting positive impact on your child's development. Most importantly, you and your child need a child care program that makes sure your child is learning, healthy, and in a physically and emotionally safe environment.

Texas Rising Star Program

The Texas Rising Star program is a voluntary program striving to provide a higher level of quality care for children. The program provides mentoring and professional development resources to prepare for, sustain, and improve the quality of early childhood environments.

There are three levels of certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) designed to encourage providers to attain progressively higher levels of certification. Texas Rising Star provides a higher level of reimbursement, eligibility for quality fund distribution, and out-of-region trainings at annual early childhood conferences. In addition, each year, Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley Board spends approximately \$400,000 on quality items for child care providers who are working towards their Texas Rising Star Provider status.

Providers who are interested in being certified as Texas Rising Star Providers are encouraged to visit the website to learn more.

<http://texasrisingstar.org>

For a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers, visit our website: bvjobs.org/programs/childcare/



The Importance of Daily CCAA Card Attendance Reporting

The Child Care Automated Attendance (CCAA) system is a crucial part of the Child Care Subsidy program. Your parents should be swiping their CCAA card on a DAILY basis for all children in your care. You, as the Child Care Provider, are responsible for accessing and reviewing the CCAA system attendance and absence report.

Where Do I See CCAA Activity?

- ◇ [CCAA Texas Provider Portal](#)

When Should I Review CCAA Activity?

- ◇ At a minimum - **EVERY 3 DAYS**

What To Look For:

- ◇ "Z" - The red Z indicates that the parent failed to swipe for that day.

**CCS Provider
Specialist**

**(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243**

CCMS@bvcog.org

Why Should I Review CCAA Activity?

- ◇ To ensure that your parents are swiping properly to record child attendance.
- ◇ This system authorizes payments to you, the provider, for the child's attendance.
- ◇ Watch this short [informative video](#) on the CCAA Card for Providers.

It is imperative that your CCS parents swipe each of their children EVERY DAY. If they fail to swipe, they accumulate an absence that counts towards their yearly maximum. If a child reaches or surpasses his/her yearly maximum allowable absences (which include "z" days), they will not be allowed back into the program for a FULL YEAR!

This affects you and your business!! As well as your parents and your community.

For Questions, Please Call or Email:

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(979) 595-2801 ext. 2014
Kristen.Goodson@bvcog.org

OR

Lidia Hawryluk
(979) 595-2801 ext. 2016
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Equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired customers may contact: Relay Texas (800) 735-2989 (TTY) or 711 (Voice).