

Create a Castle

Primary Objectives

14b. Engages in sociodramatic play

Why It's Important

Providing your child with a variety of materials encourages him to use real and imaginary objects in his pretend play. It also helps him think of creative ways to use everyday objects.

Materials

Empty boxes; blanket; large sheets; book featuring a castle; large hollow blocks; child-sized table; child-sized chairs

What You Do

1. Gather boxes, blocks, child-sized furniture, sheets, and blankets to create an imaginary castle.
2. Invite your child to read a book with you that talks about a castle. After reading, talk about the castle in the story.
3. Discuss with your child what he knows about castles, such as what they look like. Acknowledge his responses. *What do you think castles look like? Who lives in them?*
4. Explain to your child that you have gathered props for him to use.
5. Invite him to join in making a castle with the materials. Talk about the features of the castle that you are creating. Encourage him to lead the play with his ideas.
6. If your child is very involved in the activity, leave the materials out where he can use them again. You can extend this activity by creating other imaginary scenes or reading other books that give your child ideas for dramatic play.