
Handout 21: The Stories Found in Playtime*

THE STORIES FOUND IN PLAYTIME

Children learn by playing out what they've seen happening around them. By watching them play, parents can see what their children are thinking about the world.

TRY THIS

Next time you see your children (of any age) pretend-playing alone or with other children, spend some time watching their actions and listening to their words. Although sometimes you might feel like stepping in and redirecting, this time just try to figure out where their ideas are coming from.

Who do they pretend to be? Is it anyone you know? Where did your children meet or see these people?

How are they acting? Do you like the way your children act when they pretend to be these characters? How do you feel about the way they treat others in this role? Do you like the feelings they show?

How do they handle problems in the scenes they act out? by using ideas they've seen in other places? by coming up with their own ideas? by working out solutions with their friends?

TAKE IT FURTHER

- Your children's play may be different at Head Start than it is at home. To get someone else's view, compare notes with your children's teachers. Watch your children play at school if you can.
- To develop their creativity, give your children chances to invent their own play without toys. Ask your Head Start teacher for ideas.
- Watch to see how your baby learns to play with toys. Is he or she trying anything you showed him or her how to do?

