



ROLE SPEECH

A necessary component of make-believe play is that children take on and act out roles. One of the ways you can support children is to help them use their pretend roles to *expand* their role speech—the kinds of things their role may say and do in different scenarios. In addition to the information discussed in the training, try these tips to expand role speech in your setting.

EXPLORE THE PLAY CENTER

- Conduct a “center walk” with children to explore the make-believe play area (or anywhere else make-believe play may occur), pointing out the materials the children can use.
- Continue to build background knowledge by adding details from stories and real life experiences.
- Help children imagine the details of the roles in their setting. Borrow ideas from storybook characters or virtual field trips (e.g., use your phone/camera to film a scenario to show children later).

CREATE DILEMMAS

- Add realistic or silly dilemmas for children to solve (e.g., the restaurant runs out of the food the customer is ordering).
- Brainstorm with children the kinds of things the different roles can do or say (or props they can use or create) to solve the dilemma.
- Once children get the hang of it, have them think of dilemmas to solve.

EXTEND THE TALK

- Think about different types of talk children can use and build them into the make-believe play area.
- This could include adding new vocabulary and phrases, or teaching children that they can explain, ask, or wonder aloud in their play.
- For children who are non-verbal or have language delays, use gestures or icons to help them communicate with other children.