A close up of a sign

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**Top Tip from our Speech and Language Therapy partners:**

Join in and play and try not to ask too many questions.

Try to make two comments for every question asked. For example: “What do you want

to eat? I like eating pizza with Pepperoni and corn and garlic bread”



**“The fun is in the journey, not the end result!”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Make this simpler...**  Role-play using your child’s favourite toys or something they are interested in – dinosaurs, animals, paw patrol etc. | **Make this more challenging...**  Give your child some unfamiliar objects to role play with. Challenge them to us these in their role play, helping if needed. Use your imagination! |

**Tips to support your child:**

* **Encourage your child to take the lead**: your child may have lots of ideas for role play but if not, you may need to do a bit of ‘modelling’. This means doing some role play yourself. Children love to hear stories about how you used to play when you were wee, so you could use an example from your childhood to encourage them to get started. Once your child has some ideas, try to support them to explore these.
* **Role play cooking**: children love to act out the things they see their parents/carers do. Use some props to support this, for example, cooking equipment, ingredients, or a drawn-out hob (on a cardboard box). Try to use real implements (as long as it is safe) as children often want to play with the real thing rather than a toy one. If you are doing this outdoors, your child could make a mud pie or some leaf stew (remind them not to eat it!)
* **Turn a box into…anything:** One of the best things about imaginative play is that you don’t need any special toys or props. For example, a large cardboard box can be a house, aeroplane, car, fire engine, boat…
* Remember to join in and have fun! Revisit this experience regularly to help develop your child’s imagination, communication, and language skills!

**The basic idea:** Role play involves your child using their imagination to act out things they have seen, experienced or would like to experience. This play is open-ended, has no rules, goals or results and benefits your child in many ways. For example, role play allows children to test out ideas about behaviour and relationships.

**Materials**

You may need:

* A cardboard box
* Items from around the house to support role play (clothing, material, toys, items from the kitchen etc.)

This is best:

Indoors or Outdoors

Early Years Home Learning

Communication and Language  
**Imaginative Role Play**

**How this benefits your child:**

* Role play gives children the opportunity to try out ideas in a safe environment. They can explore boundaries, make sense of the world, and develop their own identities.
* In addition, it can improve confidence, develop language skills, help them make decisions and play with others.