



ENGAGING IN MAKE-BELIEVE PLAY

- **Copy the sounds, gestures, facial expressions, and actions of your baby.** This is not only fun for your baby, but also lays the groundwork for social relationships and make-believe play.
- **Play games.** Games such as peek-a-boo help children learn to engage and interact with other people.
- **Follow your child's lead and join in their make-believe play.** Use your imagination and follow your child's lead! If your toddler is playing with pots and pans on the floor, join in and pretend that you're cooking or grab a spoon and pretend they're drums!
- **Read and tell stories.** This is a great way to learn about the different characters they can pretend to be and the different situations they can act out in their own play.
- **When it comes to toys, think simply and creatively.** When choosing toys, the simpler the better. For example, toys that talk and move can be limiting, as children may only use them in one way. Simple materials, such as a cardboard box or some newspaper can also encourage children to think creatively.
- **Don't be afraid to have unscheduled time.** Having unscheduled time in your child's day can provide the time they need to engage in make-believe play on their own, with siblings, other family members, friends, or you!

