

Imaginative play for developing language and theory of mind

Lyndsey Allen

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination – Albert Einstein

We all love to watch children use their imaginations. Observing, as they copy daily life experiences or talk of magical princesses and fierce pirates. So why is imaginative play so important and how does it develop language and theory of mind? We'll look at the sequence of imaginative play development and with video examples, explore the use of props and role speech. And once we've shown how much fun imaginative play is, we'll explain why it supports language and theory of mind development.

Learning objectives

- Recall the normal developmental sequence of imaginative play development
- Describe how props and role speech are an essential part
- Recognise how useful imaginative play is to develop a theory of mind