

Supporting Children's Learning in Dramatic Play Centers

Strategies for use of the videos within your program

Have staff view the video [The Importance of Pretend Play](#) and be prepared to discuss their views on the topic.

- As a group, discuss the importance of play in children's lives and review your program philosophy related to the role of play. Share links for the example videos and copies of the completed [table](#) so they may view and consider what other teachers have done before the next time you meet. Have each staff member complete the blank [teacher worksheet](#) with regard to the current dramatic play center in their classroom.
- At the next staff meeting have teachers share with each other some of the strategies they are using in their classrooms already and discuss what additional ideas they might like to try from the videos.
- Have teachers work in teams to create plans for their classrooms that will focus on dramatic play centers.
- Utilize the CT ELDS to identify the domains and strands this plan will address.
- How does the program share this topic with families? Consider additional ways to communicate the importance of play and ideas with families:
 - A web resource: [Scholastic article "The Importance of Pretend Play"](#)
 - Perhaps teachers would like to create their own videos about their dramatic play centers to share with families!
- Have teachers implement their centers and observe children carefully for the first week.
- Meet with teachers to discuss their reflections and provide them with support and resources to adjust and enhance those centers over time. Encourage them to plan carefully for their use of teaching strategies and individualization. Use this experience as a way to strengthen their reflection and engagement in a cycle of intentional teaching.

NAEYC Program Standards:

- 1 - Relationships
- 2 - Curriculum
- 3 - Teaching
- 8 - Community Relationships

