

Play is a powerful context for children's learning and development. This list includes some of the components that may be considered when intentionally planning to develop a new Dramatic Play Center. The accompanying worksheet may be a useful way to organize that plan.



### **Guiding Questions and Considerations:**

#### 1. Choosing a Topic/Theme

- What prompted the decision to create this play scenario?
- Does it address content that is developmentally appropriate and worth knowing?
- Will it provide a meaningful context for applying knowledge and skills?
- How does it relate to children's prior experiences and interests?
- Consider familiar home themes as well as those that expand children's awareness of their community.

#### 2. Connecting to the ELDS

- Which learning and development standards will be addressed through this experience?
- Will this center provide an opportunity to integrate standards across domains?

#### 3. Initiating the Play Theme

When introducing children to a new play theme, take the following into consideration:

- Relevance (e.g., Have they ever been to an airport?)
- Children's current content knowledge related to the topic, and how new information will be presented
- The vocabulary that will be introduced
- Any rules or expectations for the play and use of materials

#### 4. Developing the Center

- Will children be included in the planning and creation of the center? If so, adequate time must be built-in for this process.
- Plan for how the environment will be organized.

#### 5. Selecting Materials/Props that:

- Promote exploration and learning.
- Are appropriate for the age span of children in the group:
  - duplicates of durable, realistic toys for toddlers
  - combination of realistic and nonrealistic props for preschoolers
- Provide graded challenges (materials that meet the needs of children at different levels.)
- Encourage social interactions (with both adults and peers.)
- Consider familiar, home-related props as well as novel items related to the topic.

#### 6. Facilitating Play

- To what degree, and in what manner will teachers be involved in the learning experience?
- What are some ways teachers will support children's social and play skills?
- What is the plan for scaffolding children's thinking and learning?

<b>Dramatic Play Center Topic/Theme:</b>	
<b>Choosing a Topic/Theme</b>	<b>Connecting to the</b> 
<b>Initiating the Play Theme</b>	<b>Developing the Center</b>
<b>Selecting Materials/Props</b>	<b>Facilitating Play</b>

*Note: This is not a required form. It is an optional tool that some teachers may find useful if they choose to engage in this process. Not all curricular components are included. After an initial plan, considerations should also include observation, assessment, individualization and family engagement.*