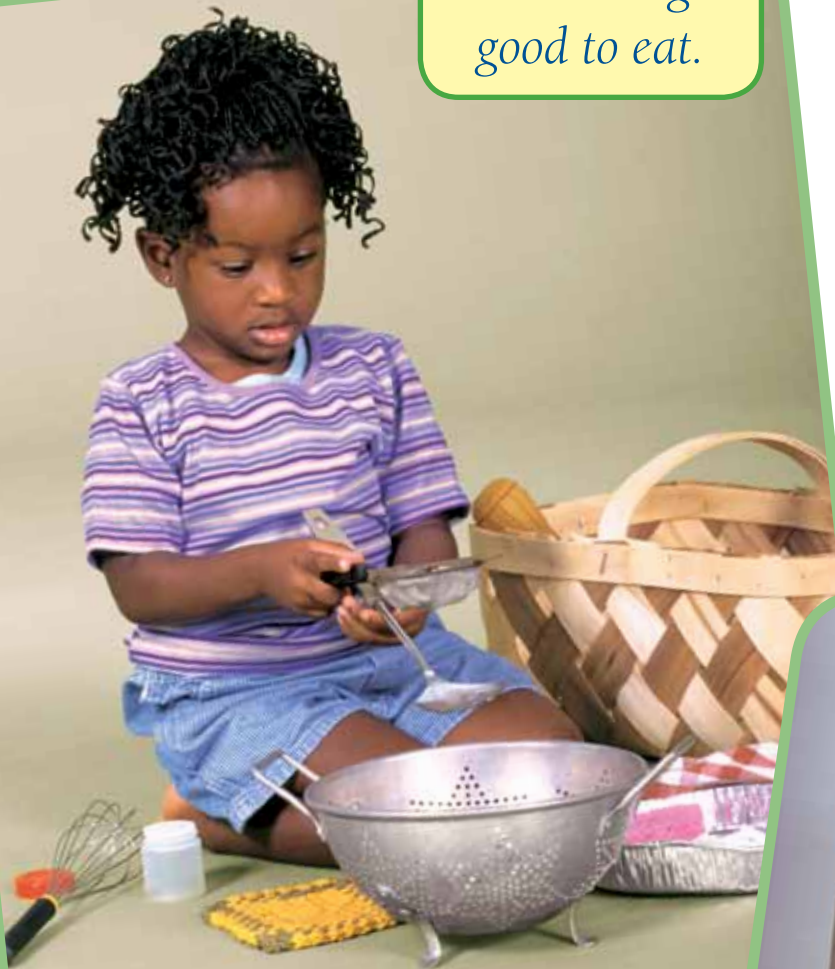


Props for Pretending

I'll cook something good to eat.



Chef

Stock a box with supplies that encourage your child to imagine herself in different roles.

Your child's thinking may expand as she dresses up to play various parts.



Doctor/Nurse



Why this is important

You can encourage your child to use pretending as a way of trying out situations she has not yet experienced. Pretending with props lets her practice future situations and make decisions as well as expand her creativity.

What you do

- Help your child collect and store the props she needs to play different roles. If possible, keep a separate box for each set of props.
- Store the boxes where she can get them out easily on her own.
- Try a few of these examples to get started:

A box with...

Dolls, cloths, baby bottle
Aprons, pans, spoons
Book bag, notepad, keys
Tools, measuring tape, safety goggles
Bandages, blanket, toy thermometer

To be a...

parent
cook
office worker
builder
doctor or nurse

- Limit the contents of each box so that your child is not overwhelmed.
- Add to or change the items in the box as you find more appropriate props.
- Help your child get started by asking: *Can you think of a person who would use these pans and spoons?*

Another idea

At cleanup time, ask your child to help put each item back in the appropriate box. She will need to think about what each object is used for in order to determine where it belongs.

Let's read together!

What Do People Do All Day?
by Richard Scarry