

Dramatic Play Center - 6 Core Components

Theme

- Weekly or Monthly
- What can you think of that would foster child-interest and engage in play?

Objectives

- The children will _____ (Bloom's Taxonomy action verb) _____ (what) when (after/by/through/during) they _____ (how/when/where).
- Remember to plan objectives (the what) based on developmental milestones (assessable measurable outcomes) for your age group of children.

Learning Opportunities

- What will these be, look like, and help the children accomplish?
- Learning styles: Visual, Auditory, Hands-on representations?
- Accommodations!?
- Involve play - how?
- What else?

Materials

- What will you need to create the atmosphere/theme?
- Developmentally appropriate
- Amount required - quantity per child in the center area?
- Engaging, diverse, and unique?
- On a budget? Think outside of the box! (Dollar Tree or DIY items teacher-child made)

Diversity

- High quality classrooms have at least 3 representations of diversity in some form
- What does this mean? How can this look?
 - Race/Ethnicity/Cultural
 - Special Needs
 - Environmental/Landscapes/Geographic
 - Financial: Rich/Poverty/Middle Class
 - Gender (non-stereotypical behaviors & activities)
 - Families
 - Pets/Animals
 - Types of homes
 - Weather
 - Clothing
 - Religions
 - Foods
 - Music
 - Ages of people
 - Types of holidays
 - Community helpers / jobs

Interactions (Teacher-child & peer-peer) during ANY dramatic play moments!!!

Ask questions: Who, what, where, when, why, how

Use higher-order thinking skills to build language:

Knowledge --- Comprehension --- Application ---- Analysis --- Evaluation ---- Creating

Build peer-to-peer interactions: Observing opportunities for children to create conversations among one another while playing or socializing.

Foster interactions:

1. Listening, then asking.
2. Listening, then responding.
3. Asking, then listening.
4. Asking, then modeling.

Roll-Play Scenarios:

- Two children are socializing and setting up for a birthday party.
- The dramatic play area is set up as a barber (hair cut) shop. The children are not talking to each other while playing, but pretending to cut baby dolls' hair.
- Children are wanting to build something with blocks in the dramatic play center.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Brainstorming Map

Weekly Theme:	Objective:	Learning Opportunities:	Materials Needed: <small>* underlined items are diversity representations</small>
Restaurant	The children will <i>pretend</i> they are workers and cooks at a restaurant after preparing and serving meals for their peers in the dramatic play center during free-play time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading menus ● Preparing meals ● Real-life situations ● Social interactions ● Setting the table ● Reading instructions to cook a meal ● Building early literacy and fine-motor skills ● Following step by step directions ● Creating imaginary experiences in play ● Math skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Variety of foods</u> ● Pretend <u>Menus</u> ● Placemat table settings ● Dishes ● <u>Meals with pictorial instructions for kids to cook</u> ● <u>Baby dolls</u> ● Table & Chairs ● Poster with restaurant name on it (hang on wall) ● <u>Music playing</u>

Small-Groups Collaboration

Keep your age-group of children in mind.

List of Dramatic Play Themes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Diversity Ideas in Dramatic Play:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Fantastic Resources:

1. <https://playtolearnpreschool.us/dramatic-play-ideas/>
2. https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/Dramatic_Play_Activity_Sheets.pdf
3. <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/dramatic-play>