Dramatic Play Spaces on a Budget

By Dina Alatorre & Arianna Romo
Learning Objectives

- **Explain**
  Explain the importance of play in the development of cognitive, adaptive, social, communication, and motor skills.

- **Identify**
  Identify existing classroom materials to use in the creation of dramatic play environments.

- **Demonstrate**
  Demonstrate the ability to create a thematic activity with provided materials.
“It is paradoxical that many educators and parents still differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them.” - Leo F. Buscaglia
Pretend play promotes development of...

- Self regulation
- Social skills
- Language and early literacy skills
- One to one correspondence
- Quantity representation
- Exchanges with one to one- money for a toy
- Representation of numbers through pictures and marks
Pumpkins

Real pumpkins and hay, scale and cash register

Train/lego table

Pumpkin planting box made out of a box and brown felt
Picking baskets
Fruit stand
Scale
Picking baskets
Step-by-Step apple pie sequence
Felt pie
Apples
Farm

- Box filled w/newspaper and covered with fabric
- Cardboard box chicken coop
- Sheet of foam
- Play refrigerator on its side
- Empty soap dispenser, brush, towel

Sheet of foam

Cardboard box chicken coop

Play refrigerator on its side

Empty soap dispenser, brush, towel

Box filled w/newspaper and covered with fabric
“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” - Mr. Rogers
Monsters

- Doctor tools
- Monster Slime
- Laminated monster body parts with magnetic tape on the back
- Office phone
Refrigerator turned wardrobe

Seasonal dress-up

Weather Station

Velcro weather bear
Community Helpers

- Table Cloth and flameless candle
- Presentation Board
- Plastic drawers
- Small plastic drawers
- Pool noodles
Pets

Office phone and vet office desk

Metal grid storage
3 Little Pigs

Cardboard, sticks and straw

Hardware store

Popsicle sticks with velcro
Basket, paper towel “logs”, sticks, yarn and a fast-food bowl
Bear Hunt

Caves built using cabinets, toy kitchen furniture, magnet board, paper, and fabrics

Bear tracks leading kids through the bear hunt sequence
Dinosaurs

Paper volcano & skeleton to body matching

Frozen dinosaur melt and dino exploration station

Dino dig
Pete the Cat

Student-made Pete the Cat hat

Pete the Cat obstacle course and matching

Colored socks (Pete’s Shoes)
“Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. **Play is a necessity.**” -Kay Redfield Jamison