



Pretend Play

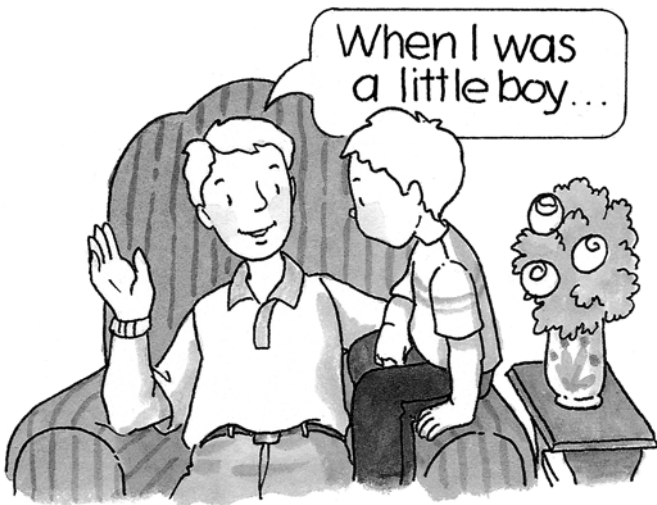
Encourage your child to use his imagination to play house, school, grocery store, circus, post office, or restaurant. Provide materials like old plastic dishes, junk mail, empty food containers, old menus, and inexpensive toys.

Dress Ups

Fill a box with a variety of clothes, costumes, shoes, hats, and other props. Your child can pretend to be an actor, firefighter, doctor, teacher, football player, ballerina, Mommy, Daddy, police officer, and others. Let your child look in a full-length mirror so he can see himself—and have your camera ready!

Promote storytelling.

Think about funny or exciting things that happened when you were a child. Tell your child stories about these things. Tell true stories, and make up other creative stories. Encourage your child to tell stories, too. If you tape record the stories, you can mail the tapes to friends or family members. Ask them to add to the story tape and send it back. You may want to have one tape for true stories and a different tape for made-up creative stories. Here are some story topic ideas: learning to ride a bike; a favorite vacation; a dream you had; what life might be like as a princess...



When you create stories, keep these points in mind:

- ✓ Have a beginning, middle, and end to the story.
- ✓ Be sure the events of the story follow a logical sequence.
- ✓ Create stories where the characters solve a problem, reach a goal, or complete a task.