

# Make-Believe Play

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –  
Check that you are happy with any weblinks or use of the internet.*

## Activity 1 – Create a road system

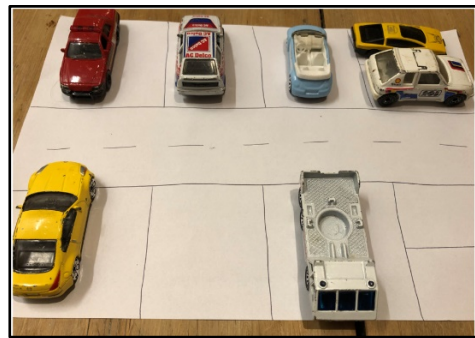
**Make a road that we can use with our toy vehicles...**

### What to do

- Take your cardboard and lay it flat.
- You are going to create a long road using several pieces of road drawn on white paper. You will stick these on to the card.
- On white paper draw a road.
- On another piece, draw another road the same width. Repeat this.
- Stick the pieces of road so they touch and together make a long road.
- Now create some more road so that you can have a crossroads.
- Maybe make a roundabout?
- How about a T junction?

### What you need

Cardboard pieces which will lay flat,  
white paper,  
glue or paste,  
fat felt-tips or paint



### Extension

Add road signs and road marking.  
What signs are written on the road? E.g.  
**STOP**  
What road signs do you know?  
What letter indicates a car park?

### Questions to ask

What marks go down the middle of the road? How can we draw these?  
Where do the roads go? Can we draw houses? Shops? Maybe a swimming pool? Or somewhere to eat?

## Activity 2 – Create an animal rescue centre

### Use your soft toys as rescued animals

#### What to do

- Set up the role play activity with pens beds for them, placing some animals in pens/ houses, and leaving others in a box or perhaps in a large toy lorry.
- Have little bowls for the animals.
- Make sure you have some bandages and pretend medicines.
- Allow children to explore the activity, before introducing question prompts.

#### What you need

Soft toys, cushions or folded towels for beds  
Bandages perhaps cut out of an old unwanted tea towel, T-shirt or rag  
Plasters, pretend medicine and spoon



#### Extension

Have a register with the names of the animals and a tick list.  
Register each animal as it comes in. Be sure to write what is wrong with it.

#### Questions to ask

Two more lions are arriving today... How many lions will there be altogether?  
How many animals will there be altogether?  
What is wrong with the bear?

## Activity 3 – Go on safari

### Use your soft toys to make a safari adventure

#### What to do

- Set up the animals in the garden or around the home. You can make some easy to spot and hide others to provide more hunting opportunity.
- Make a spotting sheet, dividing the paper into a 4x4 grid (with drawn lines or by folding).
- Prepare for the trip by packing a bag and dressing for the occasion.
- Agree on safari rules – *we must be quiet and move slowly so we don't scare the animals, we must be careful as some might be very protective over their young, etc.*
- Go on safari and see what you can find!

#### What you need

Soft toys of any type  
Binoculars made of loo rolls or rolled paper taped together or hands shaped to peep through  
Paper and pencil and something to lean on (like a clipboard or hardbacked book)  
Safari clothes (a hat to keep the sun off, backpack for provisions, etc.)  
Real or play photographic device



#### Extension

Draw or list animals found – you could keep a tally chart if you find several of the same animal  
Take photos of what you see.  
Sort animals by size, colour or leg number  
Try a safari by torchlight with the curtains closed

#### Questions to ask

What animal is that? Can you describe it?  
How can you tell that it is a unicorn?  
How many bears have you found?  
What animal have you found the most/least of?  
What do you think this animal eats?

## Activity 4 – Role play a shop

### Set up and run a shop

#### What to do

- Set up the shop together, laying out the different items.
- Make up price labels together, writing them on the paper (e.g. 2p, 10p, 50p etc.) and pricing up the goods.
- Set up a till area with money (the money can be imaginary).
- Make an 'open' and 'closed' sign' by folding a sheet of paper so it will stand up and writing one word on each side.
- Take turns with your child being the shopkeeper and a shopper.

#### What you need

Goods to sell (this could be anything: *canned food, toys, books, craft supplies, clothes, etc.*)

Paper or post its for making price labels

Play till or container for keeping real or play coins

Tabletop space

Other paper or card for making signs, labels and promotions

A telephone



#### Extension

Work out the cost of two items by adding them together. What coins do we need?  
Order the items by price.  
Hold a sale. Now everything is 1p less.  
Do a stocktake. Make a list of what is in the shop. Ring up the supplier to replace sold goods.

#### Questions to ask

How much does this book cost?  
Can you help me find the peas?  
I want to make a cake. What ingredients should I buy?  
What time do you open tomorrow?  
Can I work in your shop? What tasks will I need to do?

## Activity 5 – Role play a school

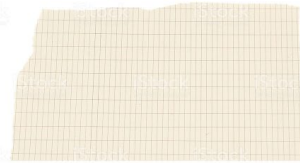
### Role play schools with toys/household members

#### What to do

- Set up learning spaces, one with paper, pencils and any educational equipment that you might have and another with a cosy space for 'carpet time' and sharing books.
- Create a simple timetable together and stick it to the wall (include Tidy-up time!).
- Create a register and tick off names.
- Take turns to be teacher and student.
- Include activities such as playtime, P.E., Art and Music.
- Include visits to places significant to your child, e.g. The Office, the library, medical room etc.
- Have a story at home time.

#### What you need

Paper, pens, pencils, art equipment  
A table and chair/s  
Any educational equipment you have, e.g.  
*key word lists, numbers, counters, ruler*



#### Extension

Create and record school rules.  
Plan and go on a school trip.  
Give an assembly to your toys.  
Hold a fire drill – count everyone out.  
Create a forest school (outdoor learning with natural objects).

#### Questions to ask

What time does school begin/end?  
How many children are here today?  
What is on the timetable?  
What are we learning today?  
How long is lunch time?  
What are the school rules?

## Activity 6 – Create a tiny/fairy garden

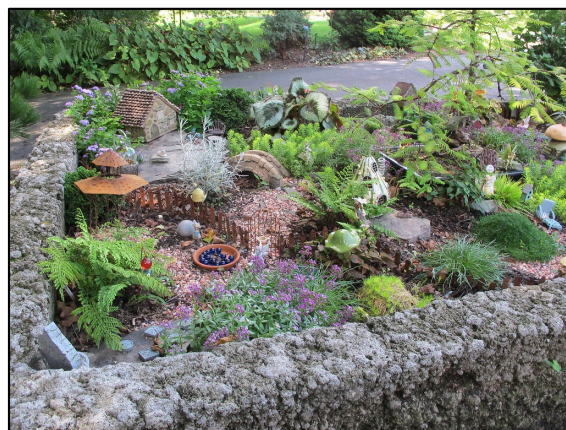
### Make a small world garden

#### What to do

- Set up the 'garden' putting a shallow tray out and filling it with soil or sand (if inside you could use paper or felt).
- Lay out the rest of the equipment and talk about what sort of garden you could make.
- Think about places for growing, places for playing and places for relaxing.
- Create a garden together, arranging the objects and talking about them.
- Make up stories together, playing with the garden and developing it.

#### What you need

A shallow tray or wide plant pot  
Soil, pebbles, sand, real or artificial flowers, petals, grass, shells, lolly sticks, twigs  
Small figures, toy animals, dolls house furniture  
Craft supplies, e.g. *gems, beads, buttons, feathers.*



#### Extension

Make benches, swings, fences, scarecrows and houses from twigs, lolly sticks, card and string.  
Add a shallow pond, filling a jar lid with water.  
Put real small plants in the garden, and or plant cress seeds in a shallow tray and watch the crop grow over a week.

#### Questions to ask

What could our garden be like?  
Who might live there?  
Where will the flowers grow?  
Will there be a path? How could we make it?  
Where will the children hide when they play hide and seek?  
What if the rabbits eat the lettuces?  
What will stop the birds eating the seeds?