



WHAT IS MY BABY/TODDLER LEARNING FROM PRETEND PLAY?



Babies usually enjoy seeing adults pretend to be a **DUCK**,



a **KITTY**



or a **FROG**.



This helps them to learn that you can pretend to be those animals, but you are still you. You come back. This also helps them trust adults to return and be there when needed.

Babies also mimic our behaviors. Try raising your eyebrows dramatically several times while a baby watches. Soon the baby will begin to do this. Babies are beginning to learn they are separate people and can do what adults do.

As they grow, toddlers will begin to use one object to stand for another. They might pretend a block is the telephone and pretend to talk into it. This means that the child is starting to understand that a symbol represents something else. It's important because language requires the understanding that words are symbols that stand for real things.



WHAT IS MY BABY/TODDLER LEARNING FROM PRETEND PLAY?



Babies usually enjoy seeing adults pretend to be a **DUCK**,



a **KITTY**



or a **FROG**.



This helps them to learn that you can pretend to be those animals, but you are still you. You come back. This also helps them trust adults to return and be there when needed.

Babies also mimic our behaviors. Try raising your eyebrows dramatically several times while a baby watches. Soon the baby will begin to do this. Babies are beginning to learn they are separate people and can do what adults do.

As they grow, toddlers will begin to use one object to stand for another. They might pretend a block is the telephone and pretend to talk into it. This means that the child is starting to understand that a symbol represents something else. It's important because language requires the understanding that words are symbols that stand for real things.



WHAT IS MY BABY/TODDLER LEARNING FROM PRETEND PLAY?



Babies usually enjoy seeing adults pretend to be a **DUCK**,



a **KITTY**



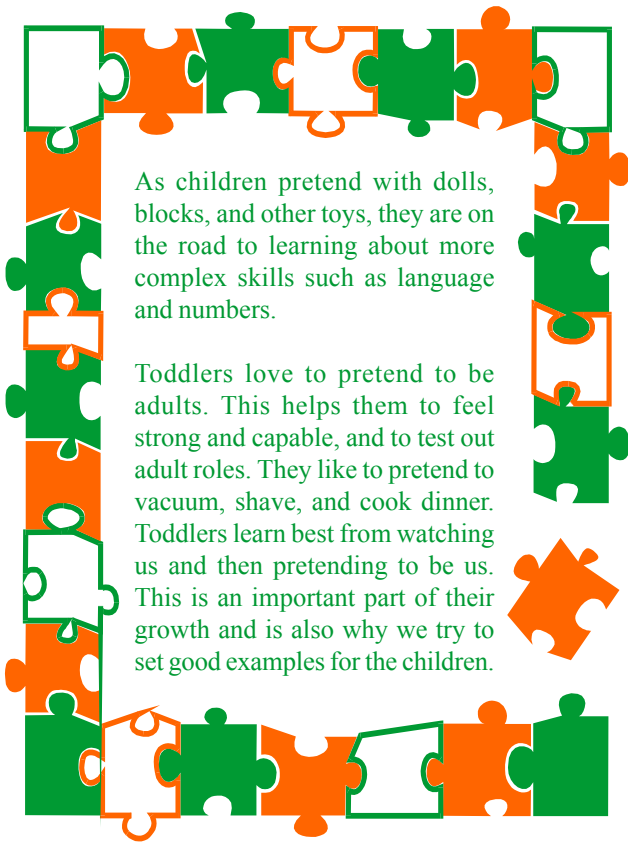
or a **FROG**.



This helps them to learn that you can pretend to be those animals, but you are still you. You come back. This also helps them trust adults to return and be there when needed.

Babies also mimic our behaviors. Try raising your eyebrows dramatically several times while a baby watches. Soon the baby will begin to do this. Babies are beginning to learn they are separate people and can do what adults do.

As they grow, toddlers will begin to use one object to stand for another. They might pretend a block is the telephone and pretend to talk into it. This means that the child is starting to understand that a symbol represents something else. It's important because language requires the understanding that words are symbols that stand for real things.



As children pretend with dolls, blocks, and other toys, they are on the road to learning about more complex skills such as language and numbers.

Toddlers love to pretend to be adults. This helps them to feel strong and capable, and to test out adult roles. They like to pretend to vacuum, shave, and cook dinner. Toddlers learn best from watching us and then pretending to be us. This is an important part of their growth and is also why we try to set good examples for the children.

Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

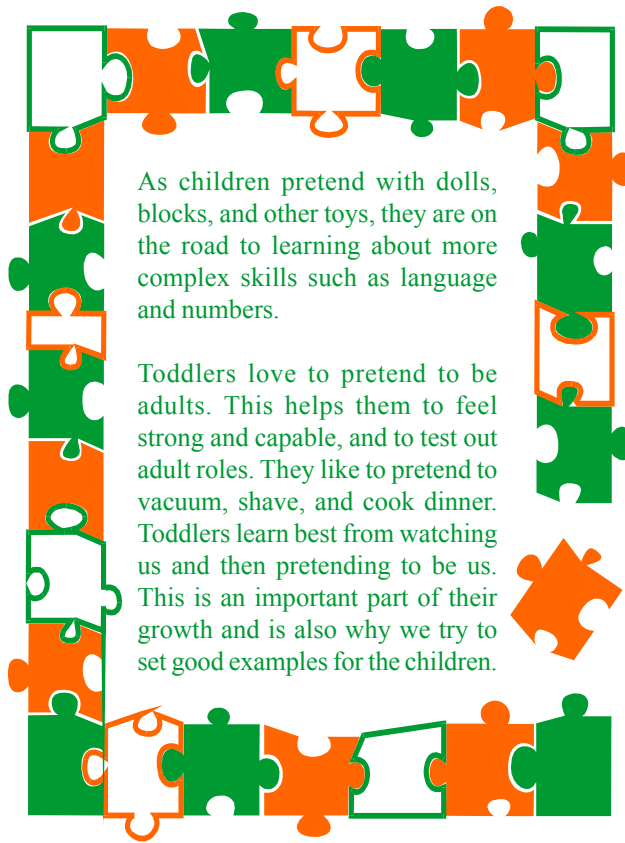
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 24-03

May, 1998

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, The University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director



As children pretend with dolls, blocks, and other toys, they are on the road to learning about more complex skills such as language and numbers.

Toddlers love to pretend to be adults. This helps them to feel strong and capable, and to test out adult roles. They like to pretend to vacuum, shave, and cook dinner. Toddlers learn best from watching us and then pretending to be us. This is an important part of their growth and is also why we try to set good examples for the children.

Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

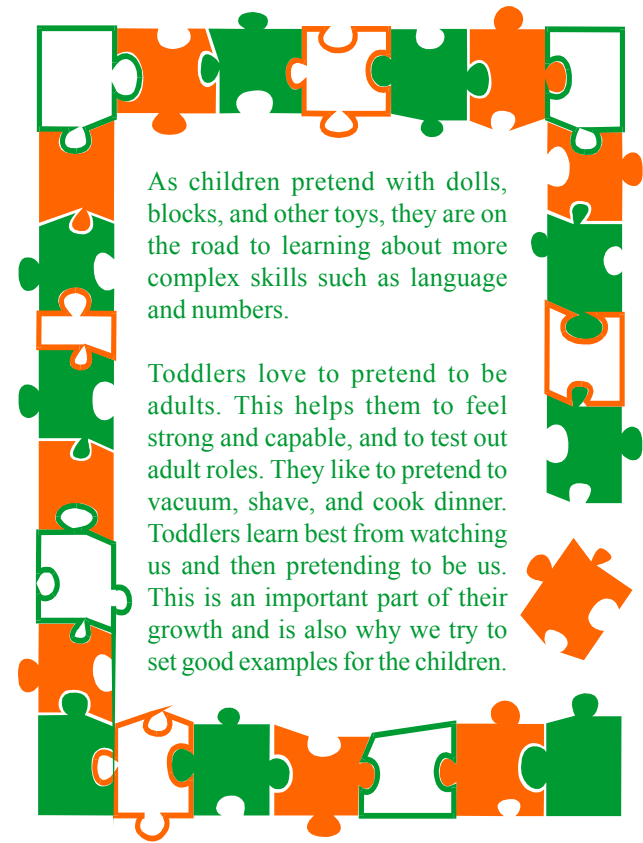
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 24-03

May, 1998

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, The University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director



As children pretend with dolls, blocks, and other toys, they are on the road to learning about more complex skills such as language and numbers.

Toddlers love to pretend to be adults. This helps them to feel strong and capable, and to test out adult roles. They like to pretend to vacuum, shave, and cook dinner. Toddlers learn best from watching us and then pretending to be us. This is an important part of their growth and is also why we try to set good examples for the children.

Released by Don Bower,
Extension Human Development Specialist
Developed under contract by Linda J. Grant

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the counties of the state cooperating. The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Leaflet CHFD-E 24-03

May, 1998

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, The University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director