



Planning a Play to Work Box

An Exercise in Fostering Dramatic Play



Through dramatic play children experiment with various identities and develop an appreciation for the real-life roles of the people around them. Providing children with playthings that encourage dramatic play can be as simple as assembling everyday items that have some association with jobs familiar to children.

For this project you will be creating a Play to Work Box, a collection of items chosen to build on children's interest in the familiar occupations. The items included in the box should encourage children to imagine what it would be like to work in various career fields. For example, a necktie and box with an attached lid might remind children of an accountant, attorney, salesman, or other type of office worker. Check out these websites for additional ideas:

- <http://www.howtomakeahat.com>
- <http://www.ourlittletreasure.com.au/pa/sub/dressupbox.php>



Project Directions:

1. Complete the planning outline below, identifying ten careers that will be represented in your Play to Work Box. List the items that you plan to include in the box to correspond to the careers that you've selected.

Career/Job	Items to be include in Play to Work Box

2. Assemble items for Play to Work Box. Select a box, basket or other container large enough to accommodate all items.

Caution: *Make sure that all items that you include in your Play to Work Box are safe for use by young children and age appropriate.*