



Developmental Benefits of Play: Cognitive, Creative, Physical, Communicative, Emotional, Social

Focus Skills/Subject: Speaking, Storytelling, Vocabulary, Imagination, Inference, Observation, Social-Emotional Learning

Grades: PreK - 1

- Ask your students who they would trust in their community to help them with certain problems or situations. A few examples: “Who would you call if you were home and heard a strange noise?”, “Who would you trust to help you if your cat was stuck in a tree?”, “Who could you trust to call if you saw smoke in your house?”, etc.
- Create a list of people around the community who can be trusted to help in those situations (neighbors could be included in some of the answers).
- Take time to allow the children to play “neighborhood.” Set up several tables, with each station representing a different place where children can participate in dramatic play (i.e. – grocery store, post office, doctor’s office, school, library, restaurant, etc.). If you do not have props or supplies for this, just print pictures out on paper. The children’s imaginations will do all the work!

Pro Tip: Limit children to 5 minutes at each station and then rotate them so that each child gets to experience all the places in the neighborhood. Have the students draw their favorite station they visited.

Materials:

- Projector
- Pretend Toys
- Costumes
- Food
- Paper
- Pencils
- Boxes
- Cash Register

