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â€œThis is my son. Today he wants to be a builder, and tomorrow a Policemanâ€• young mother Jane says. Children attach themselves to characters that they like from stories and cartoons and they want to be like these people. From the age of 1,5 years, the introduction of role play is key to child development and all children should be allowed to present themselves in different roles.

Child psychologists have stated that later childhood can be characterized by role playing games and their dominance in the activities of a preschooler. Role play is essential to the full mental development of children and in their third year of life, provides great enhancement to 3 main areas:

- It opens up great opportunities for the emergence of purposeful activity

- Children learn the purpose of objects and how to use them

- It creates a favourable environment for the development of self-consciousness

Role playing games are very important in the mental development of children as they develop voluntary attention and memory. The rules required during a game teach children the ability to control behaviour, follow directions, understand their impulsivity levels, which thereby contributes to a formation of character. When children play with their peers, they learn to communicate, to take into account the desires and actions of others, to defend their own opinions and to insist on their own, to jointly build and implement plans. Children begin to cover numerous activities which in turn help to develop their mental abilities and to perceive anotherâ€™s point of view. As they get used to an image, a child plays out their experience and rethinks and reveals them. And even though role playing is imagination, the child will still have very real feelings to enrich his inner world.

Role Play means that a child will take on the main role and in doing this they imagine they are an adult. Of course it is still difficult for the 2-3 year old toddler to understand some role play so you will need to help your baby. As an example, if your child has visited a doctor and their experience was a good one, you can safely encourage your child to mimic and act like the doctor. Involve both parents by choosing roles that both are interested in- father and son can go carting or play with dinosaur toys!

Offer as many variations as possible on the game of role playing to your child as it will help them learn the rules of behavior in public places and more about different professions. Play and explore with your child and watch as these lessons become and unforgettable first step for your child into adulthood!

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