

	<b>Approaches to Learning- Strategies</b>
	10. Thinks symbolically 11. Engages in socio-dramatic play (PreK-K only)

- Provide many opportunities to learn about diverse symbols and their functions, such as language, gestures, letters, numerals, photographs, drawings, models, maps, graphs, webs, and video images.
- Point to pictures during story reading, calling attention to what the pictures mean.
- Show common objects and encourage the child to think about how to use them to represent something different.
- Collect data about the family, e.g., favorite foods, number of pairs of shoes, birthday months. Present the information by first using concrete objects, then pictures, and then abstract symbols to make a graph.
- Model pretending, e.g., pretend to take a bite of a plastic apple or rock a baby doll to sleep.
- Provide familiar items for the child to use during pretend play, e.g., empty food boxes, restaurant menus, and shopping bags.
- Provide multi-purpose, open-ended props that can represent many things, e.g., blocks and boxes. Encourage the child to use gestures and descriptive language as they dramatize.
- Encourage the child to pretend without props as another way of engaging in dramatic play.
- Describe what the child is doing and offer suggestions.
- Ask open-ended questions to extend the child's imaginative play and expressive language.
- Extend pretend play by interacting with them. Imitate what they are doing; comment and ask questions; or take a role, using a play voice and gestures.
- Plan specific activities to enhance the child's knowledge of the world and the roles of people in various settings. Talk about people's roles.
- Encourage the child to make his/her own props to use in play or to support their learning, e.g., number lines, word walls, alphabet books, etc.
- Teach children a few basic signs from American Sign Language.