

Ról Súgartha Role Play

Foghlaim/learning

- Learning across all areas of the curriculum can take place in role play. It is an area that offers opportunities for children to:
- * Work as part of a group, taking turns and co-operating
 - * Use language to express and communicate their ideas and to (re)create roles
 - * Use mathematical ideas to solve problems
 - * Develop their knowledge and understanding of the world as they show an interest in familiar people and talk about what they see
 - * Use their imagination in role play and imaginative play
 - * Develop their fine motor skills as they use small equipment with increasing control and tie fasteners on clothing



Aiseanna/Resources

Where possible use real resources rather than toys. Resources will vary depending on the role play setting but basic resources should include:

- Pictures and posters of the local and wider community
- Notepads, paper and pens
- Reading materials
- Labels and signs including words and numerals
- Assorted dressing up clothes, lengths of fabrics and scarves
- Hats and shoes and other accessories



Before setting up a specific role play area note in particular props that support early mathematical development and communication, language and literacy.

Restaurant or cafe

- Signs including name of restaurant, open/closed and opening times
- Menus- including pictures and price list
- Chalkboard for today's special
- Food pretend or real
- Crockery and cutlery, tablecloths, napkins, salt, pepper and sauces
- Aprons and hats for waiters, notepads and pens to take orders
- Cash register and money, bills, receipts, plastic cards
- Reservations book, telephone and diary
- Kitchen and serving area

Petrol Station

- Numbered petrol pumps and prices
- Way in and exit signs
- Car wash, prices and tokens
- Wheeled toys with car number plates
- Green and red petrol cans
- Till, money and receipts
- Maps and street atlases

Suíomh/Location

Many naíonraí have a role play area as well as a home corner. The two areas enhance and complement each and should be adjacent to each other.

- Locate the role play area in a large area as possible
- Position the home corner and the role play area adjacent to the construction area. This allows children to support their learning by moving resources between areas
- Sometimes it is better to locate the role play area outside when setting up a building site or petrol station, market stall or vet's surgery.



Pleanáil/Planning

Plan for children to have:

- ♦ Regular access to the role play area
- ♦ Opportunities to use different role play areas—e.g. doctor's surgery, post office, travel agent's, airport, shops, vet's surgery, petrol station, railway station etc
- ♦ Opportunities to develop their communication, language and literacy through everyday realistic experiences such as ordering take away food
- ♦ Diversity of presentation. Plan to change the area and add and remove resources

Monitor the use of the play and dough area and use observations to inform future planning e.g. if children are bringing dolls into the hospital plan a baby clinic or baby unit as part of the hospital

Tacaíocht foghlama/ supporting learning

Naíscóil staff should:

- Ensure that the role play area is well maintained and safe
- Create an area that stimulates children's creative and imaginative play
- Plan to spend time in the area observing children and where appropriate enhancing and extending their learning
- Model the use of specific resources and act in role as the doctor or the receptionist
- Create situations that encourage talk in a creative context
- Introduce, use and reinforce language which is specific to learning in the role play area
- Ask open-ended questions that encourage the use of imaginative and descriptive language

Eispéireas agus gníomhaíochtaí/ experiences and activities

Role play should be available on a regular basis. Naíscóil staff should plan activities that extend children's knowledge & understanding, skills and attitudes:

- As part of a theme on 'growing' staff could create a garden centre. Gather as many free resources from garden centres, posters, leaflets etc. Ask parents to contribute Wellingtons, spades, pots, plants and seeds. Make appropriate signs and labels for children.
- As part of a pet shop or vet's surgery look at an animal carrier. Ask what could be inside, give clues and finally open the box. Ask what the new pet would need and gradually introduce the items, food, brushes, bowls, collar etc
- Ensure staff understand the importance of dressing up and role play for all children, so that they can talk about role play confidently and allay parental anxieties e.g. boys playing with dolls or dressing up.

Teanga/language

Introduce, use and reinforce the specific language of learning in the role play area:

otharlann clinic teocht cuisle steiteascóp bialann biachlár
príomhchócaire carachtar/pearsa culaith rólanna cur i gcéill
samhlaigh buille an chroí
Hospital clinic temperature pulse stethoscope restaurant
menu chef character costume roles pretend imagine heart-beat

