

A PROGRAM OF UNITED DISABILITY SERVICES



TOY & RESOURCE CENTER **BUILDING BLOCKS**

ONE ITEM ONE SITE ONE IDEA

Add a *doll*-up of fun to your child's day by checking out one of our **dolls**! Playing is serious business and dolls encourage open-ended play which means they can be used in numerous ways! When you put together a puzzle or play a game it has an intended result, but open-ended play allows for imagination and creativity to flow!

Engaging with dolls allows children to develop respect for gender, ethnicity and diversity in roles related to how we all fit into our world! The Center is striving to provide a selection of dolls that will allow each child to feel represented—which helps to develop a sense of self-worth!

Dolls may bring comfort as children voice their thoughts to the doll and learn to express their emotions ("I feel angry!"). Dolls may also serve as a vehicle for teaching practical skills. The ability to take turns, understand personal space and adjust the things we say or do according to a given situation are just a few of the skills necessary for successful daily interactions with others. Dolls prove helpful in acting out scenarios that may be personally challenging (waiting their turn or getting ready for bed). Practice and problem-solving lead to forming and sustaining appropriate relationships! Playing with dolls promotes advancement in all areas of development! Washing a baby doll and squeezing out the washcloth will help build fine motor strength while placing the dolls in water provides sensory input! As you present new words related to doll play (baby, bottle, bath), vocabulary and grammatical awareness are enhanced! The list is endless—and so is the fun!



This site offers some incredible ideas for using dolls to elicit speech and language. Do this to promote learning through play—and have fun along the way.

<https://bit.ly/3tdC1F3>

Baby Doll Haircuts

This idea is a cut above the rest! Kids LOVE to cut doll hair - but then they may no longer want the doll! This idea only take a few items to create.

- doll
- construction paper
- tape
- scissors

Cut strips in the paper, wrap it around the doll's head, tape it and let your little one cut a beautiful hairstyle. That's all you need to create smiles galore on your little snippersnappers!



Photo credit: HappyToddlerPlaytime.com

Membership to the Toy & Resource Center can save you hundreds of *dollars* by borrowing vs. buying! We could try and tell you there are better places to be than the TRC, but we don't think we can.



Why buy toys when you can borrow them? United Disability Services' toy lending library loans developmental toys and resource materials to its members. Stop by and see us!

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