

## Role Play & Drama Family Activities

### **Games**

- ❖ There are a wide variety of family games which promote drama and creative expression (Charades, Cranium, Charoodles, Don't Make Me Laugh, and Kids On Stage, etc.)
- ❖ Nursery Rhyme/Storybook Charades: Act out scenes from a favourite nursery rhyme, storybook, movie, television show, while family members try to guess the scene.
- ❖ Rhyme Charades: Leader says "I'm thinking of a word that rhymes with 'cat'." Others must act out a word that rhymes (eg. bat-flap arms, sat-sit down, mat-lay flat on floor, etc.). This can also be changed to alphabet charades where the word being acted out must begin with a certain letter.

### **Dramatic Play/Role Play**

- ❖ Play dress up. Children can become someone else and interact with family members or friends.
- ❖ Dramatize a favourite book or movie. Children and other family members can act out scenes or the entire story. If you wish, add scenery, costumes, and/or props.
- ❖ Dramatic Play Centers: Allow children to play and communicate in a variety of situations. It is best to work with their interests. Some suggestions might be doctor's office, school, restaurant, shopping, veterinary clinic, construction site, transportation, emergency services, sports, office, castles, media (television, radio, newspaper, etc.). Play props can often be found in everyday items around the house. Encourage them to use their imaginations or make props if they are not available.

### **Drama/Improvisation**

- ❖ Shoebox: Think about the different types of shoes worn by people in different occupations (eg. ballerina, fireman, etc.). Take some imaginary shoes from a box and put them on in a

dramatic fashion. Now act out some things this person might do as a part of their job. See if others can guess who you are.

- ❖ 3 Rules: Select three rules (eg. use only one arm, no words containing an "s", all must be questions) then act out a scene following all three rules.
- ❖ Make a flannel board by stretching an old flannel shirt or sheet over a piece of wood or stiff cardboard. Cut pieces of felt into shapes and create a flannel board story or scene.
- ❖ Mirror, Mirror: An activity for two people. The leader begins by making slow, deliberate movements. The follower faces them and acts as a mirror image, reflecting their movements at the exact same time. This can be complicated by slowly adding speech to see if both partners can say the same thing at the same time.
- ❖ Create your own play, skit, or reader's theatre using a favourite book or movie.
- ❖ Broadcast Theatre: Children act as newscasters reporting on local/current events.
- ❖ Puppet Shows: Puppets and theatres can be made from just about anything around the house (lunch bags, pencils, paper plates, gloves, mittens, socks, balloons, popsicle sticks, paper, etc.). Hands or chins (hanging upside down) can be decorated with face paints for a fun alternative to the hand puppet.
- ❖ Talent Shows: Let your kids strut their stuff in a planned performance of their talents. Throw in a host and a great time will be had by all.
- ❖ Slow-Mo: Act out scenes in "slow motion". As an added touch, replay the scenes in "rewind", "fast forward", "super slow motion" and "instant replay."