



Play Themes

What are Play Themes?

Play Themes are the stories that children make up in their play. It shows children's awareness and understanding of events that happen to them, around them and/or beyond reality. Your child's choice of play theme may vary, depending on his/her exposure.

You can think of play themes as play ideas.

How do I know what play themes to choose for my child?



Child's interest



Exposure
(e.g. life experiences, books)



**Recommendation
based on age**

What can I do to help?



**Play with your
child and have fun!**



**Show your child
how to play**



**Encourage
but do not force**

What are the different types of pretend play themes?



18 months

Themes related to body or self



Pretends to sleep, eat, drink, change diaper, take a bath, use the toilet (self/doll)

Themes related to things or what happens at home

20 months



Pretends to cook, iron clothes, do laundry, sweep/mop the floor, wash dishes

2 years

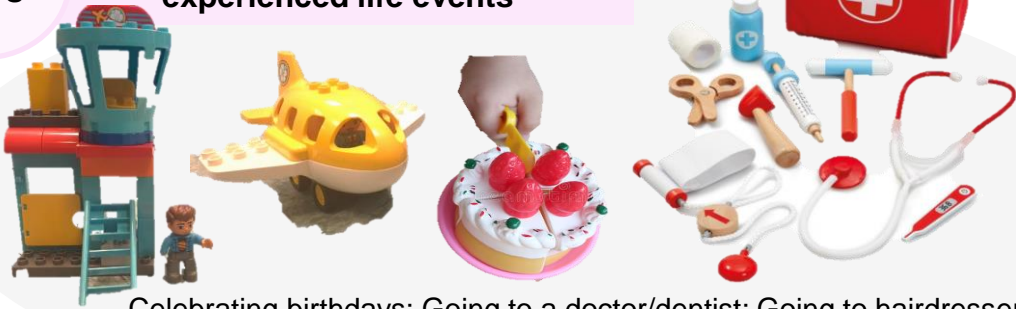
Themes related to frequent events child has experienced out of home e.g. at least once a week



Going to school, playground, food centres, supermarkets/shops
Taking transport (e.g. car, train, bus)

2.5
years

Themes related to less frequently
experienced life events



Celebrating birthdays; Going to a doctor/dentist; Going to hairdresser;
Going on trips (e.g. zoo, bird park, taking plane/cruise)

Themes which are beyond personal experience
(e.g. re-enacting scenes from books or TV)

3 - 3.5
years



Outdoor camps, Car accidents (ambulance), Fire-fighting; Frozen,
Thomas the train, Coco melon, Paw Patrol

4
years

Themes including stories with subplots/problems

Playing at the playground and someone got hurt
Riding a bus/car but it broke down



Themes that are fantasy/never seen,
heard or experienced

5
years



Visiting other planets; Adventure under the sea