



## POWER OF PLAY® ACTIVITY GUIDE



### Primary Development

#### Areas Addressed:

- Social/Emotional
- Language

#### Number of Children

1	2-3	3-5	5-10
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### Rationale:

The Bubble Mirror, excellent for this age, provides an individual space for each child to watch self and each other while assuming a real or imaginary role, as well as to talk with each other. Socio-dramatic play involves make-believe and imaginative elements that provide the foundation for developing cognitive skills of abstract thinking and problem solving.

#### Environmental Set-up:

Children love creative dramatic play!

The Bubble Mirror is an innovative and unique mirror that provides multiple perspectives, in contrast to the standard mirror.

- Install/secure Bubble mirror in horizontal position at children's eye level.
- Provide suitcase/box of culturally appropriate clothes/artifacts to be used by the children as props in dramatic play

#### Objectives:

- Provides multiple images and perspectives of child, peers and environment;
- Imagining & experimenting with "roles" that reflect the culture & society child lives in;
- Conversational language development

#### Activity Overview:

Children select from a choice of props in dramatic play box and "dress up." Children use bubble mirror (each with their own bubble) to look at themselves and each other in their "costume." Socio-dramatic play enables children to act out interpretations of a role and to talk about "who they are" in this dramatic role.

- Provide time for children to experience the process of "dress-up" and the reflection of themselves transformed by costume.
- If not spontaneous, use guiding questions to facilitate the "scenario" they are imagining in their minds.

#### Guiding Questions:

"Look at you! You're a \_\_\_\_\_ (fireman, daddy, doctor, etc.). What tools do you need to be a \_\_\_\_\_?"

If a child has on, for example, an apron and chef's hat, you might ask what he is planning to cook next or what he just finished cooking or preparing.

#### Implications for Brain Development:

The brain, organizing and integrating different thoughts, ideas, and pieces of information learned earlier in life, allows the child to imagine possibilities through dramatic play. In contrast to a traditional flat mirror, the Bubble Mirror provides multiple and varied images of shape and size, linking internal perceptions with visual observations. The child, through imitative and dramatic play and 3-dimensional mirror imagery (evident from Bubble Mirror) begins to stimulate the brain development that produces 3-dimensional perceptions. This helps to refine the child's internal representation of the external world.

#### Developmental Learning Outcomes:

##### Sensory-Motor/Physical Development:

- Improved motor coordination
- Enhanced internal sensory-motor organization
- Improved ability to interpret constancy in image size and shape

##### Cognition Development:

- Enhanced imagination & creativity;
- Identification, classification, and matching of clothing/tools;
- Emergence of primitive reasoning and problem solving.

##### Language Development:

- Understanding of basic rules of conversation;
- Increased expressive vocabulary through discussion of roles and dramatic characters.

##### Social/Emotional Development:

- Expression of feelings & emotions;
- Parallel & Associative play/borrowing & sharing of materials;
- Safe "space" to try out ideas and thoughts.

#### Activity Variation:

- Give child a camera to take a picture of self in the mirror;
- Provide clothes/props around a theme;

#### Resources:

Barbour, A. & Desjean-Perotta, B. (2002) Prop Box Play: 50 Themes to Inspire Dramatic Play. Lewisville, NC: Gryphon House Publishing. The Importance of Dramatic Play. Retrieved November 2009 from [www.pbs.org/teachers/earlychildhood/articles/dramaticplay.html](http://www.pbs.org/teachers/earlychildhood/articles/dramaticplay.html)