When you pretend, you can do anything!
Dear Family,

We’ve been doing lots of pretend play at school lately. It’s one of the children’s favorite things to do, and it actually helps them get ready for future years of school. The picture on this card is taken from a short video of DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD: Pretend Play.

After we watched the video, we talked about it and learned the song that Daniel and his friends sing at school when they are pretending:

🎵 When you pretend, you can be anything! 🎵

Pretend Play at Home

Ideas and materials for you and your child to have fun with when you’re encouraging pretend play at home:

- In the video we watched, Daniel’s teacher brings in a big cardboard box, and the children have great fun pretending that it’s a spaceship, boat, and even a race car. You could keep an eye out for a big box for your children to play with at home.

- Look for items from your closet that your child can use to play dress-up. Items like adult shoes, a jacket, a purse, a backpack, or a briefcase may be easy for your child to recognize and associate with someone in the family. Children like to pretend to be “you” or someone they know well. You might need to start the pretend play by saying, “Pretend you’re ______. Where are you going? What are you doing today?”

- You can use towels or fabric to make superhero capes.

- Old Halloween costumes can inspire pretend play all year-round.

- Use old socks for making sock puppets. You can glue on old buttons for eyes or use markers to draw a face on the sock puppet.

Did you know that when children pretend, they are developing skills that prepare them to:

- Read stories
- Solve problems with their friends
- Express their ideas and feelings
- Imagine that they can be anything

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