

Let's Play!

Creating her own play activities helps your child:

- Understand roles of adults around her and in the community
- Develop her imagination
- Imitate real-life roles and experiment role-playing

Ideas to try with your child:

- Visit the grocery store, post office and restaurants. This will give your child a chance to interact with and learn about community members.
- Talk about people you see who work there. For example, ask: "Why do you think the server has a pad of paper and pen?" (e.g. To take orders)
- Offer to play "restaurant" during lunch. Make menus together and encourage your child to be the "server" by taking your order and serving your food. You can also "pay" for the meal using pretend money as your child plays the role of a cashier.

If your child is struggling:

- While watching television together, talk about different jobs you may see. For example, discuss the role of a doctor while watching *Doc McStuffins* or talk about what a construction worker does when watching *Bob the Builder* on PBS.

Going further:

- Read stories about community workers such as: *Career Day* by Anne Rockwell or *What Do People Do All Day* by Richard Scarry.
- Help her make a mailbox out of a recycled tissue box and create a few cards together. Then she can play the role of a postal worker by delivering mail.
- Enjoy a tea party together and have her baby dolls and stuffed animals as her special guests.



The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 3-4 years** that parents can help improve at home.

Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Enjoy creating own play activities." About Me and My Family and Culture, Ages-3-4 years, pg. 58