



# Tasks Galore Let's Play



Structured Steps to Social Engagement  
and Symbolic Play

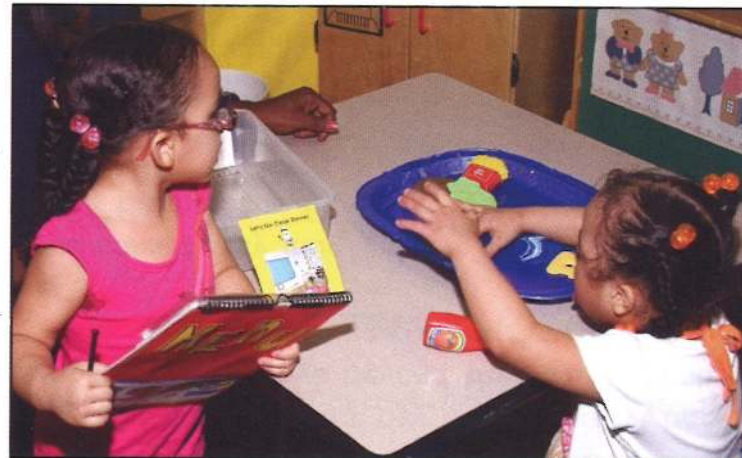
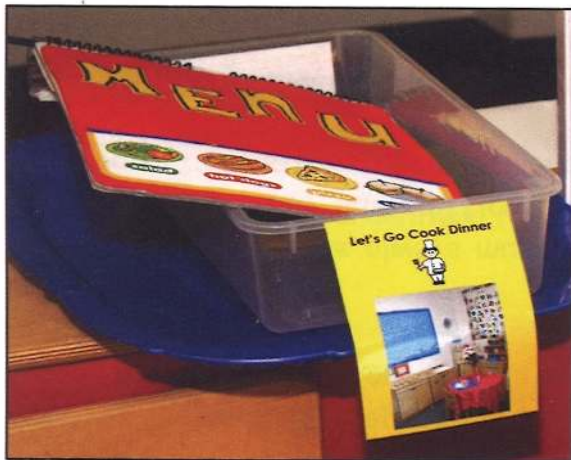
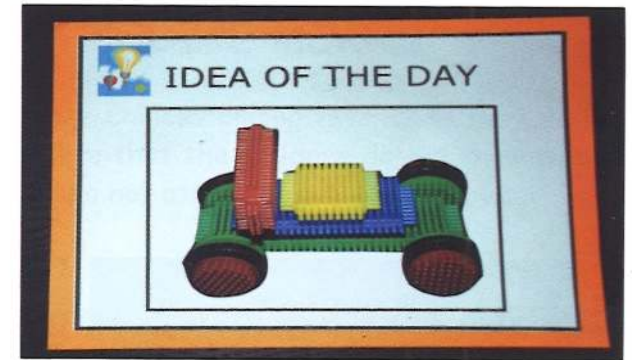
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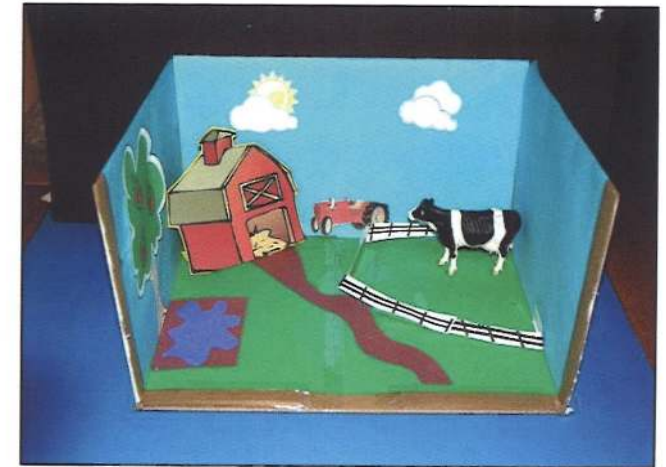
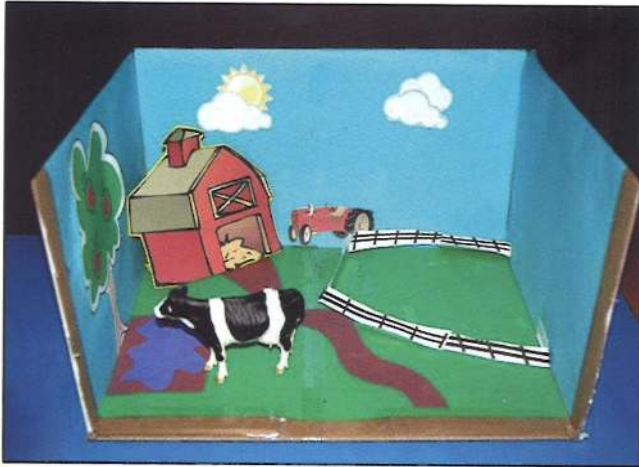
One teacher talks with students during group times about the ideas of the day for different centers. When they go to those centers, they see reminders about the ideas. In the manipulative center, the idea for this day is to build a car out of bristle blocks. Once started with bristle blocks, the students often think of other things to build. In the housekeeping center, the teacher provides a suggested menu for the day. She also provides props for students to take orders from their playmates. Just seeing this idea when they enter the area is enough of a visual prompt for some to initiate play.



Students have prelearned play schemes, such as bathing baby, shopping, and cooking, and they feel confident playing with these toys with their peers. The books with visual instructions help the children remember the ideas and, if needed, give them something on which to focus. Students who manage their playtimes by choosing toys, attending to them until finished, putting them away, and choosing something different may sometimes have difficulty putting these skills in place when in a play center filled with commotion. These play books provide a starting point and help the children organize their thoughts about what to play when they are feeling overwhelmed in a center.



The cow does many activities at her farm: she drinks water, walks on the path, eats hay in the barn, and goes inside the corral. Once children understand they are to pretend the cow does these actions, we next help them understand that other animals can do the same actions.



One teacher structured play with the doll house to encourage her students to have toy figures carry out the action. By having the students pick a toy figure from the "Who Bin" and an object from the "What Bin," they start to understand better the connections among characters, objects, and actions.







# Tasks Galore

## Let's Play

*Tasks Galore - Let's Play*, the fourth book in the popular resource series for parents, teachers, and therapists, utilizes play as the program for learning. There is more and more evidence that direct teaching of play skills can increase young children's symbolic understanding and, thus, have an impact on their imitation, language, and social skills.

Beautiful color photographs of children at play depict tasks that the authors have implemented successfully to enhance their students' toy play, flexibility, and social interactions. Printable visual supports that will generalize to multiple learning situations also are included.

Chapters demonstrate how routines, organizational strategies, and visual cues make play more understandable, so students can

- share enjoyment,
- use toys appropriately,
- manage play times,
- make and end choices,
- pretend, and
- play with peers.

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