

## Dramatic play deepens children's higher-level thinking skills.



Autumn uses the camera to X-ray Russell in the X-ray machine.

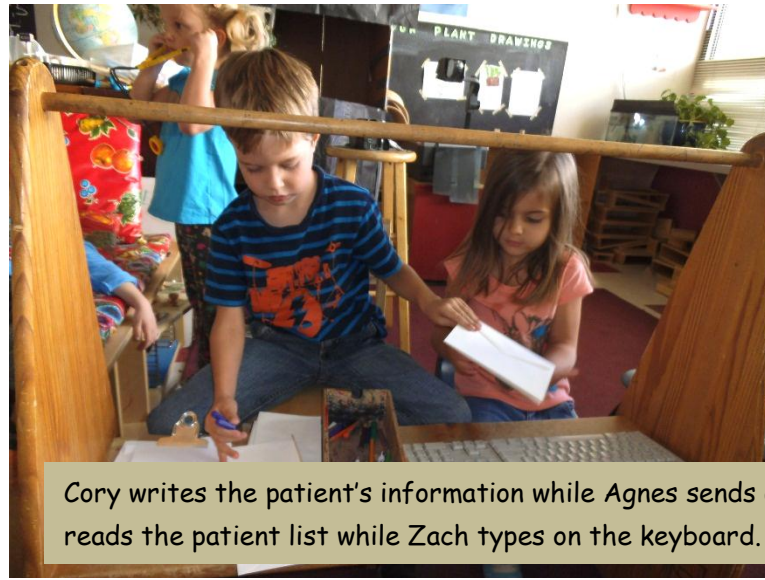


Children practice real-world literacy skills in the doctor's office. Annie points to the letters of the alphabet on our "eye chart". Cory reads the letters on another eye



Avelina reads a nonfiction book about what doctors do and the names of tools they use such as a stethoscope. As they pretended to be doctors helping patients, children used the tools and said their names, building their vocabulary skills while deepening their understanding of doctors' roles.





Cory writes the patient's information while Agnes sends a message in an envelope. Labrraylyn reads the patient list while Zach types on the keyboard.

### Exploring the purposes of reading and writing through play.

Children explore the purposes of reading and writing while playing Doctor's office. Learning to read and write is more than learning the ABCs. Children need to have lots of exposure to the purposes of reading and writing so they understand why we read and write. They need to see adults writing for many purposes. Think about all the reasons you read and write (shopping lists, menus, text messages, the newspaper, books, etc.) and talk to your child about why you are reading and writing.



Drawing is another way to communicate and a precursor to writing. Pablo shows he understands bones are inside his body by drawing his skeleton and wearing it on his chest.