



Children use their imaginations to pretend to travel to space.

Developing dramatic play and sharing an imagination is an important skill children develop in preschool. They pretended to fly to the moon, look for aliens, fix their space ship. Dramatic play allows children to develop symbolic thinking skills (this paper plate is a steering wheel, this milk jug is a helmet). Symbolic thinking is a precursor to academic skills. Symbolic thinking helps us understand that this mark "C" is a letter that stands for a sound, and this mark "3" is a number that is a symbol for a set of 3 objects. When children engage in dramatic play scenarios, they develop narrative concepts such as character "I'm the astronaut, you're the alien." and plot, "Pretend the alien is going to get us, then we run away and fly home." This understanding of how a narrative works with help them comprehend what they read as well as write clear narratives.