The Perks of Offering Dramatic Play within the Day

When children are involved in dramatic play, they might pretend to be:

- doctor checking their patient's heart
- prince fighting a dragon to save the princess
- mechanic fixing their big monster truck before the big race
- pizza maker making a special birthday pizza out of blocks, strings and beads.

Dramatic play such as the above scenarios should be encouraged amongst children as this type of play encourages a child's healthy development.

The benefits of dramatic play

Early childhood research supports the correlation between dramatic play and a child's healthy development. Benefits include such things as the development of:

- **Conflict resolution skills** - Differences can arise during dramatic play. Working through these challenges offers children a chance to learn to compromise with each other.
- **Language skills** - Dramatic play teaches and encourages communication and language. Dramatic play is often a comfortable place for children who are shy or withdrawn to practice talking in a group.
- **Math and reading skills** - Dramatic play provides the perfect play setting for children to be exposed to numbers and written words. Whether being a cashier in a store or following a recipe in the bakery they are exposed to reading and writing.

- **The skill of processing through emotions** - Dramatic play offers a safe place for children to act out scary experiences. Children who have experienced trauma, like an accident, might choose to be an ambulance driver or doctor.

Dramatic play materials

Children should be offered a variety of opportunities in their day to engage in dramatic play. You don't need to spend a lot of money to offer children a variety of dramatic play materials. Several household items make great dramatic play materials. Things such as:

- Halloween costumes, fabric for capes
- Shoes, hats, sunglasses
- 1st Aid kit and construction tools
- Camera, purses, backpacks, luggage, mirror
- Dresses, suit coats
- Empty cereal or cracker boxes
- Writing materials, puppets
- Dolls, stuffed animals

One way to expand your dramatic play offerings is to ask parents to bring things from home that can be shared with the children.
Encourage Play In The Day

Dramatic Play Theme ideas –

Need new ideas to spice up children’s play?
• Bakery
• Flower Shop
• Grocery Store
• Pizza Delivery
• Hair Salon
• Veterinarian Office
• Doctors office
• Camping
• Beach Party
• Post Office
• Farmers Market
• Present Wrapping Station

Books that Encourage Play and Imagination

- **Archie and the Bear**
  by Zanni Louise
  ![Archie and the Bear](image)

- **Stanley’s Stick**
  by John Hegley
  ![Stanley’s Stick](image)

**CPR Class Policy**
CPR classes sponsored by the City of Sioux Falls Health Department through Sanford CHILD Services are provided free of charge to Sioux Falls City registered family day care providers and their helpers. Registration for CPR classes is limited to 9 people per class. To help ensure CPR education is available throughout the year to Sioux Falls City registered family day care providers, the following policy exists:

1. Class registration is limited to Sioux Falls city registered family day care providers and their helpers.
2. Sioux Falls City registered family day care providers, and their helpers, receive one free CPR class per year.

**CPR Cancellation Policy**
1. Cancellation of CPR class registration needs to be made 24 hours prior to the start of the CPR class. By doing so, allows others to enroll in the CPR class.
2. If notice of cancellation is not received 24 hours prior to the CPR class, the registrant will have used up his/her free CPR class for the year. A payment of $20 will be needed to enroll in another City of Sioux Falls Health Department sponsored CPR class.

A Word from the Health Department....
It is mandatory for family daycares to be registered within the city limits of Sioux Falls. If you feel a daycare needs to be checked on, please call (605) 367-8760.

2018 Annual Survey
Look for the 2018 Annual Survey in your mailboxes mid-January.

• Please complete the survey!
• Your feedback and input assists CHILD Services with program planning and class topic offerings.
• Return the survey, in the envelope provided, for a chance to win a $25 Visa gift card.

Sioux Falls WOW 10th Anniversary
Saturday, January 19, 2019
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Washington Pavilion
Downtown Sioux Falls, SD

Lisa Murphey, the Ooey Gooey Lady is back! Lisa is a dynamic speaker and one of the most sought after in Early Childhood Education! She will make you laugh and send you home with ideas to use the very next week.

For more info visit http://siouxfallswow.weebly.com/

Child Care Professionals Conference
April 26 – 27, 2019
Watertown, SD
Watertown Event Center

Find more information at https://fccpsd.org

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Mark Your Calendars!

**CPR Opportunities**

CPR classes held at CHILD Services. Verify CPR class location when registering.

Class Dates:
- Thursday, January 24, 2019 • 6:30 – 10 p.m.
- Saturday, February 9, 2019 • 8:30 a.m. – Noon
- Saturday, March 16, 2019 • 8:30 a.m. – Noon
- Thursday, March 28, 2019 • 6:30 – 10 p.m.

**Learning Opportunities**

Verify classroom when registering.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Class Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
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| Thursday, January 3  | **Minimizing The Risk of Shaken Baby Syndrome**  
Proactively minimize the risk of Shaken Baby Syndrome in your childcare program by recognizing and managing stressful situations. | Online            | Child Abuse & Neglect          |
| 6:30–7:30 p.m.       |                                                                             |                   |                                |
| Saturday, January 26 | **Certified First Aid**  
Learn to handle child illness and injuries in the first few minutes until professional help arrives. A Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid Course completion card will be given to students upon successful completion of the course. Course renewal is every 2 years. | Sioux Falls       | Safety & Health                |
| 1–3:30 p.m.          |                                                                             |                   |                                |
| Monday, February 11  | **Child Abuse: Family Support Strategies**  
Help prevent child maltreatment by recognizing, supporting & encouraging at-risk families working to build their child-rearing skills & strengths. | Sioux Falls       | Child Abuse & Neglect          |
| 7 – 8 p.m.           |                                                                             |                   |                                |
| Thursday, February 28| **Child Care Essentials: ABC’s of Guidance and Discipline**  
Learn what may be behind some behavior problems of children in your care. Gain tips to guide children to more appropriate behavior. | Sioux Falls       | Guidance and Discipline        |
| 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.     |                                                                             |                   |                                |
| Monday, March 4      | **Building The Brain Through Play**  
Playful learning builds children’s brains. Guided play and other support strategies provide meaningful learning opportunities for children. | Sioux Falls       | Child Development               |
| 7 – 8 p.m.           |                                                                             |                   |                                |
| Tuesday, March 19    | **Safe Infant Sleep Environments**  
Learn to identify common hazards of infant sleep environments and safe sleep practices for injury prevention. | Sioux Falls       | Safety & Health                |
| 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.     |                                                                             |                   |                                |
| Monday, March 25     | **Food Handling Techniques**  
Keep everyone safe from food related illness. Learn about precautions during food preparation, storage and while feeding infants. | Sioux Falls       | Food Handling Techniques       |
| 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.     |                                                                             |                   |                                |

Class size may be limited, so registration is required. For more information on the classes, class location or to register; call CHILD Services at (605) 312-8390.
Go in the main entrance of the Sanford School of Medicine Health Science Center (1400 W. 22nd). Instead of going straight ahead into the Wegner Library, turn left and go through the double doors. Signs will be posted to guide you.

Office Location:
CHILD Services Office
1115 W. 41 St.
Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 312-8390
(800) 235-5923