

# At home with childminders and parents

More creative and fun ideas to support your child's learning  
that are linked to our theme of **'DRESS UP'**

## Favourite characters

- Gather together a box of old clothes and accessories so that your children can dress up as their favourite characters.
- Look out for children's hard hats and tool boxes with child-sized tools and encourage them to dress as Bob the Builder in coloured shirts, dungarees and boots.
- Invite a small group of your children's friends to come to tea dressed up as their favourite characters. Perhaps they could bring their favourite storybook along, too.
- Talk about times when you wear different clothes for different tasks and why you need to do this in order to keep clean and for safety purposes.
- When setting the table for a meal or putting items away, count out loud how many objects you have as you put them down.

## People who help us

- Take your children to an optician to explore the range of spectacles and pick up eye care leaflets to take home. Play 'Opticians', dressing in old white shirts, reading letters on homemade charts and trying on plastic sunglasses.
- Draw attention to sirens in the street and talk about where the emergency vehicle might be going. Play 'Emergency services' at home, for example, ringing a pretend doctor on a toy telephone to tend to an injured toy.
- Reassure your child (appropriate to their age) what they would need to do in the event of a specific accident or incident in your home so that they do not worry unduly.
- When washing your cars at home, or while cleaning bicycles or a wheeled-toy, encourage children to dress in waterproof clothing and join in using sponges and watering cans.

## Let's get ready

- Set up a 'football party' for your children and their friends. Ask them to come wearing trainers and sports clothes and play mini-matches in the garden or park.
- Keep a box of 'disco' clothes and accessories so that your children can set up their own disco with chosen music to accompany their dancing. Pretend microphones are great for wannabe 'X Factor' stars!
- After enjoying a special family occasion, such as a Diwali party, provide your children with suitable dressing-up clothes and accessories so that they can re-enact these occasions during their play.

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