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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**4.4 Learning to talk through play**

**Why is this important?  
Imaginative play is crucial for learning new skills and practising these skills in  
a safe environment. Play is vital in encouraging language development.**

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What to do  
• Gather together dolls or other soft toys and one of the following:  
★ Doll’s tea set.  
★ Empty bottles, sponge, flannel, toothbrush, etc.  
★ Bottle and bed (a shoe box will do).  
★ Shop.  
• Encourage the child to act out situations through play (e.g. tea party, bath-time).  
• Talk to the child about what he/she is doing.  
• Get a doll/teddy/favourite toy/playmobile figure for yourself and play alongside  
the child to show what to do. Talk to your doll so the child can hear – keeping your  
sentences short and just using the words you need (e.g. ‘doll drink’, ‘doll sleep’).**