

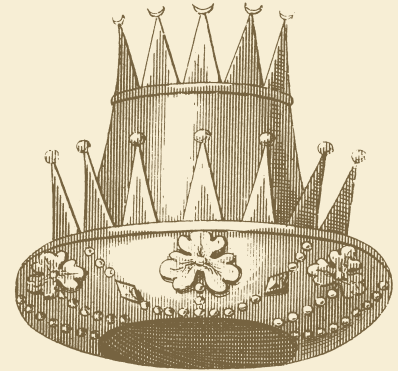
The WONDER CABINET WISDOM

Perspective Taking - The Pretend Area

While role-playing, children have the opportunity to understand a new point of view. This flexibility in thinking is a foundation for perspective taking and problem-solving.

Ways to develop your child's perspective taking skills:

- * **Play pretend with your child:** Dramatic play is a natural way for children to process the world around them. Provide props or dress up clothes for inspiration.
- * **Ask questions:** While role-playing, ask questions like, "What would it be like to be a...?" When children develop characters, they learn perspective taking skills as they figure out what others think and feel.
- * **Talk about feelings:** Talking about your own feelings helps children learn words to identify theirs, and take comfort in knowing that others have emotions too. Sharing ways that you manage your feelings can help children learn ways to manage their own.
- * **Understand your child's point of view:** Children who feel listened to and understood become better at listening to and understanding others.



Why is this important?

Pretend play promotes perspective taking, an essential life skill that helps children understand the intentions behind others' actions and words. Studies show that children who are able to do so are less likely involved in conflict and generally have an easier transition into kindergarten.

Adapted from *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs* by Dr. Ellen Galinsky
www.mindinthemaking.org

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