

CONNECTIONS

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Children Love to Pretend

An important form of play in early childhood is sometimes called symbolic or fantasy/pretend play. This type of play usually involves imaginary roles for the child as well as imaginary companions.

Between the ages of one and three years a child's level of symbolic play is a direct reflection of his cognitive and language development. Children start first by beginning to be able to copy frequently observed things such as hand waving and cleaning. At approximately a year and one half when they begin to combine two words they will begin to perform two step actions such as cooking and feeding the baby.



By three years of age, children want to try out many different roles experienced in the real world: father, mother, doctor, nurse, police officer, teacher or fire fighter. A child may use pretend play to assume the role of some superhero or favorite character he has seen on television. Or maybe he makes up his own character.

Sometimes a child may reenact a previous experience, positive or negative, that he changes to suit his own purpose. For example, if he was frightened by some monster on television, he might later change the part to a kind monster for the story to have a happy ending.

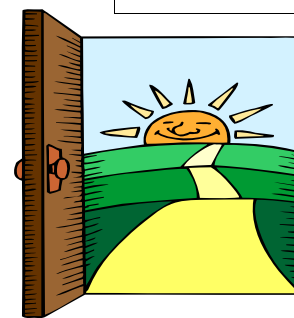
Preschool children frequently create imaginary companions in their play. At this age, it is perfectly normal to have make-believe friends. Usually by the time a child goes to school, his interests will shift from imaginary to realistic activities. Imaginary companions are useful for several reasons. They provide comfort and support for the young child when needed since they always behave as the child wants.

For example, when a young child has to deal with the conflict between the need for being cared for and the need to be independent, it's possible for him to be both a baby and a baby doll's caregiver.

Imaginary companions can also serve as useful scapegoats that can be blamed and corrected as needed (for having soiled pants, for example). It doesn't help to tell a preschooler that his imaginary companions don't exist. They enable him to experience his own developing sense of self. And he does this in the safe environment of imaginary friends over whom he can exercise control.

In this safe pretend world, a young child will often display strong expressions of emotion. This provides both a release of tension and a means to explore a whole new world of feelings.

Adapted from Growing Together July 2008



Look inside for a variety of community events for the entire family. The Hull Family Network calendar covers both July and August so be sure to save it and flip it over to stay on top of all the fun this summer.

Inside this issue:

CPC news	2
Workshops & events	insert
Calendar	insert
Hull Family Network	3
Parenting Tips	4

Published by Maggie Ollerhead & Joan F. MacDonald

Hull Early Childhood Advisory Council

Community Partnerships for Children



Summer Music on The South Shore:

Friday, July 25th:

5:00 pm, Jeff's Jam sponsored by the Hull Family Network and the Mass Cultural Arts Council at the Market on the Harbor, Bay St. and Nantasket Ave.,

Monday, August 25th:

6:30 pm, Wayne Potash at the Jacobs Elementary School. Come See the new Hull Family Network.

Sundays in Hull

from 2-4 pm at the Bernie King Pavilion beginning July 6th

Cohasset Carillon Concerts

on the Cohasset Common Sundays at 6 p.m. For the exact schedule go to www.ststephencohasset.org

Weymouth Concert Series:

At the Ralph Talbot Amphitheatre, 75 Middle St. Thursday evening family concerts at 6:30 pm July 10-31st www.weymouth.ma.us/rec

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Do you have a 3, 4, or 5 year old?

If you are a working parent with a preschool aged child, you may be eligible for scholarship assistance in childcare services through

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for a scholarship parents/guardians must:

- ◆ Be a resident of Hull
- ◆ Have a preschool age child
- ◆ Work either full or part-time
- ◆ Be income eligible based on family size.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Yearly Income</u>
2	\$30,378
3	\$37,526
4	\$44,674
5	\$51,822
6	\$58,970

Income Eligibility is determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sliding fee scale. Family income should fall at or below state level.

Children may receive a subsidy for full or part-day scholarships at several community programs. If you believe your income falls within these guidelines, kindly contact Maggie Ollerhead at 925-0771 x 27 for a scholarship application.



Hull Early Childhood Advisory Council

Hull Family Network

Note from the HFN Coordinator:

Joan F. MacDonald, jmacdonald@town.hull.ma.us

Summer is here. We have started our summer playgroups this week reading a beach story and using fish stickers with everyone. We have 2 music concerts planned for the summer and hope to see lots of families, especially those who are unable to attend group because of older siblings. We plan these concerts as a way for you to reconnect with some of your playgroup friends.

You will notice our August calendar looks a little blank and we encourage you to keep track of our August hours and new information through our website. We are tentatively closing after group on August 7th to start moving. We will be closed August 8th to August 19th. If all goes smoothly, we hope to be open for drop-in playgroup at the playground or even inside from 9:30-11 on August 20th thru August 29th. Our new telephone numbers will be 781-925-4400.

Summer Fun Resources

Summer is a great time to get out, explore and try some local events.

The South Shore Mom's & Dad's guide has a website with listing for a variety of activities, www.momsanddadsguide.com

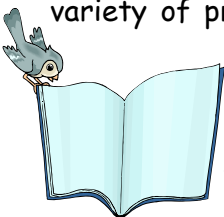
Local resources listed include:

* The Friends of Hull Public Library is hosting two special events this July. July 8th at 2 pm - Steve Rudolph - a magician will perform and on July 23rd at 2 pm - Phinneas the Dog will perform with his puppets. Library story time is on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. www.town.hull.ma.us for more details.

*Musician's and storytellers through the Cohasset Library (781) 383-1348. The website is www.cohassetlibrary.org but there are no specifics, and it requests you call the library directly to register.

*The Trustees of the Reservation, www.thetrustees.org, offers a variety of programs at Weir River Farm, World's End, geared towards preschool and elementary aged children.

*The Hingham Library, www.hinghamlibrary.org offers age specific story times and family movie times.



Farmer's Markets:

Make a healthy fun memory for your children - take them with you to the Farmers Market! For locations, dates and consumer information regarding crops in season, shopping tips, storage tips and recipes for FRESH produce check out this helpful web-site:



http://www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/farmers_markets.htm. Local farmers markets are held on Cohasset Commons on Thursday from 2:30-6:30 June 12-October 16 and in the Hingham Harbor Beach Parking Lot Saturdays 10-2 May 24-October 25. Hull will begin it's very own farmers market/festival each Friday from 2:30-6:30 on the HRA Bay side Lot across from Subway. The Hull Family Network will be there on July 25th.

Did You Know....

WIC offers Farmers Market Coupons to those enrolled in the WIC Program in order to purchase fresh produce. Each WIC participant receives four coupons totaling \$10. In addition to the coupons, WIC provides a "JOY OF THE HARVEST" recipe book and valuable information about produce.



HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Check our website for additional
events and information at
www.town.hull.ma.us
click on the Hull Schools link

This newsletter is a
collaboration of
Hull Family Network
&
Community Partnerships for
Children

Sponsored by grants from the
Massachusetts Department of Early
Education and Care

What is the Hull Family Network?

The Hull Family Network supports all parents and caregivers who have children prenatal through age three. Our goal is to help parents create and maintain a healthy family environment as well as to promote family well being through parent education and community support.

Funded by the Mass. Dept. of Early Education and Care through a grant to the Hull Public Schools, the Hull Family Network provides playgroups, parent education workshops, parent support groups, family activities, and information on parenting and community resources. By providing family recreational activities and playgroups, we hope to help parents build connections that will extend beyond the HFN Center and be a support to them. By providing parent education workshops, support groups, and having an extensive parenting lending library, we hope to help parents enhance their child-rearing skills.

Our programs are free to all residents of the town of Hull who are pregnant or have children through the age of three. Most of our programs are offered at our center which is located at 7 Hadassah Way. We are open Monday-Friday 8:30- 2:30, and Tuesday until 7:30 p.m. and are always happy to meet a new family.

Save your beach memories

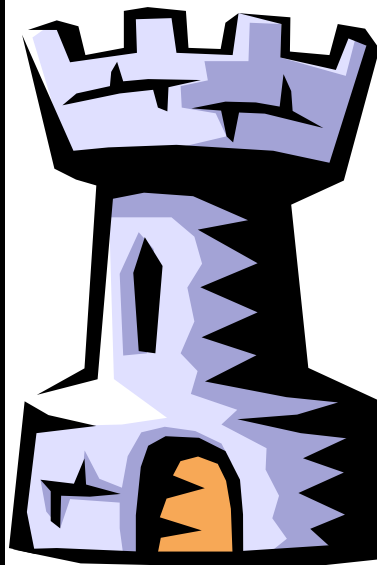
Materials:

Shells, sea glass, rocks

Mix 1 part white glue

With 6 parts sand

(you may need more sand so have extra available)



Shape the sand into a castle or other favorite beach shape. Decorate with items from your day at the beach. Allow to harden (will dry hard as a rock).