

Setting up a role play 'Shop' at home.

One of the things the pupils in my class enjoy doing is role play and setting up areas in the classroom to keep them busy. These role play areas can also be set up at home.

You can make a shop out of things you have at home and children experience as much enjoyment setting up their shop as they do playing the game.

First of all, decide where your shop is going to be and what you will use. You could use the kitchen table or even a cardboard box can be just as effective.

Now decide what your store is going to sell. It might be a grocery store making use of food from the cupboards and empty packets, a cafe selling cups of tea and cake, a toy shop, or a clothing shop. Children often have far better imaginations than we do so let them take the lead and add a few suggestions if they get stuck.

Every shop should have a till and some pretend money. If you have a toy till that is great if not Tupperware boxes do the job. You can pinch play money from a monopoly game, make your own or use coins from their piggy bank and an old bank or store card. Pricing items is a great way to practise writing numbers and if it is appropriate children can add up the amounts, working out the total and how much change they need to give.

Once you have your shop, your items for sale and your money you are ready to play. Children will love playing together but most will want you to join in as well. Take it in turns to be the shop keeper and the customers and let children lead the narrative and come up with ways to solve any problems they may come across.

Closing up the shop at the end of the game and putting everything away is also a great learning experience for children and a valuable life skill.

I hope you enjoy setting up your role play shop and have lots of fun!!

