

## Prop Boxes for Dramatic Play

Prop boxes are containers of related materials for use in dramatic play. They can be used as the basis for setting up an interest center or by themselves. To make prop boxes, secure and label boxes or sacks until you collect enough items for effective play. Transfer the items to a dishpan or other sturdy container when you are ready for the children to use them.

Following are some suggestions for prop boxes. Many of the items are free, inexpensive, easy to make, or readily available in an early childhood class.

**Supermarket** - cash register, play money, sacks, empty food containers, wax food, aprons.

**Post Office** - toy mailbox (or one made from a shoebox), stamps (the kind you get in magazine promotions) and envelopes, crayons, paper, blue shirt, large purse (for mail sack).

**Cooking Set** - pots, pans, eggbeaters, spatulas, spoons, plastic dishes, canisters, cookie cutters, disposable gloves.

**Laundry** - clothes line, clothes pins, doll clothes, handkerchiefs or small hand towels to wash, soap, toy iron and ironing board.

**Cleaning** - whisk brooms, sponges, towels or clean rags, spray bottles with water.

**Beauty Parlor** - brushes, combs, cotton balls, scarves, ribbons, bows, barrettes, aprons used as capes.

**Flower Arranging** - various types of artificial flowers and greenery, plastic vases.

**Water Play** - toy boats, empty plastic jars and bottles, spray bottles, funnels, corks.

**Sand Play** - plastic shovels, pails, transportation toys, flour sifters, funnels, items to use as molds.

**Gardening** - gloves, toy rakes, plastic shovels, watering cans.

**Office** - toy telephone, old telephone book, toy or old typewriter, paper, crayons, envelopes, bank deposit slips, old calendars, and calculators.

**Dress-up** - sturdy jewelry (not pins), gloves, shoes, hats, purses, wallets, belts, scarves, and ribbons. (Dress-up clothing will need a larger container.)

**Picnic** - paper bags, paper and plastic dishes, toy food or pictures of picnic foods mounted on cardboard, old tablecloths or sheets, basket.

**Doctor Kit** - strips of cloth, stethoscope, doctor and nurse hats, white shirt or smock, disposable gloves.

**School Kit** - chalk and small chalkboard, books and paper.

**Mechanic Kit** - assorted nuts and bolts, toy tools.