

# UNLOCKING THE IMAGINATION

## Lesson

Every child has an imagination that is just waiting to be unlocked. As a parent it is your duty to help them with this as they grow. One simple way of doing this is by asking them questions at a young age so they can use their imagination to come up with possible answers. These questions can be asked anytime, but are especially appropriate when reading to your child. Such questions include “what if...?”, “what do you think is going to happen next?”, “how do you picture this in your mind?” and so on. It is also important for parents to allow boys and girls to play with a variety of toys, regardless of their gender and the gender associated with the



## Lesson Continued

toy. If your three-year-old daughter wants to play with a tonka truck, let her. Forget about stereotypes and allow your child to be a kid and have fun. Free play is also very important. Free play is simply allowing your child to have their own time, supervised of course, but allowing them to play with their toys without any specific structure. By doing this, your child will begin to develop ideas on their own. Facilitate the use of toys that require the use of the imagination such as blocks, trucks, dolls, and stuffed animals, rather than toys such as computer and video games. Remember that your child will not have a complete and clear distinction between fiction and reality until they are 7 or 8 years old.

## Snack Time

Make an “invention” with your child.

Using appropriate food combinations, let your child help you invent a new snack.



## Activity & Games

Write a short story with your child.

You may begin by stating, “Once upon a time there was a little boy/girl...”

The story does not have to be long. The intent is to have your child explore their imagination while having fun with their parent.

## Reading Time

-Peek-A-Baby: A Lift-the-Flap Book, by Karen Katz

-Not a Box, by Antoinette Portis

-Horse in Harry's Room (I Can Read Book Series: Level 1), by Syd Hoff

