

Practical Activity: Imaginative play felt pizza

Description of the Practical Activity: “Imaginary play” or “symbolic play” is essentially when children are role playing and are acting out various experiences that are of some interest to them. It is important for the cognitive development of pre-schoolers because it helps them to develop imagination, curiosity, problem-solving skills as well as focus and attention. Adults often do not pay attention to imaginative play, but it is a child’s way of engaging with the surrounding world, so when a child pretends to ask a parent “if he/she wants a cup of tea, he/she should play along and ask for a tea spoon or some sugar”.

In this game, kids are “pizza chefs” and they pretend to make different pizzas using felt pizza toppings and other props (Figure 3).

Parents need as follows:

- pizza box;
- cardboard;
- PVA Craft glue;
- coloured felt;
- pizza props (spatula, food containers, etc.);
- pictures of real pizzas to follow for making the different toppings.

To create the pizza, parents can cut a circle out of the cardboard and paste coloured felt onto the board. Then they can cut the toppings using other coloured felt (e.g. red for tomatoes, black for olives, white for mozzarella etc.).



[Figure 1 Felt pizza](#)

[Imaginative play Felt Pizza](#)

[Why is pretend play so important?](#)

[What is imaginative play?](#)