

Even more ideas

Encourage children to be inventive and imaginative by making environments for the small world toys:

- Make houses, garages, pens, cages, etc. from building blocks or boxes, or anything you can find in the home
- Draw roadways or train tracks on large pieces of paper
- Use coloured paper or card for grass, earth, sand, water etc.
- Alternatively use the real thing in small trays or containers
- Add natural resources such as pebbles, shells, leaves, twigs

Always check for allergies or choking hazards

Families at Play

Families at Play is a series of information leaflets that offer enjoyable and exciting activities for you and your child to do together.

Other leaflets available in the Families at Play series:

Physical Activity over 2's

Physical Activity under 2's

Messy Play over 2's

Messy Play under 2's

Water Play over 2's

Water Play under 2's

Sound and Music over 2's

Sound and Music under 2's

Mark Making over 2's

Mark Making under 2's

Playdough over 2's

Exploring under 2's

Small World over 2's

Pretend Play over 2's

Small World Play

over 2's



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Improvement Team



Why is small world play so important?

Small world play gives young children opportunities to act out situations and stories that are both familiar and unfamiliar to them. Acting out narratives and ideas through the manipulation of small equipment such as animals, people, cars, boats etc, help children reflect on feelings and events in their lives in a safe secure way.

Children will often take on many roles when acting out different situations and stories.



How will this help my child?

Some of the skills children are able to develop, apply and practice through being involved in small world play include opportunities to:

- Develop co-operative skills
- Develop manipulative skills and hand-eye co-ordination
- Develop and extend their vocabulary, including language relating to position
- Solve problems by working out different solutions, such as the quickest route on a road mat
- Communicate their ideas and re-tell stories in their own unique way

What will we do?

Small world toys come in many different forms-dolls, teddies, cars, planes, trucks, trains, animals, dinosaurs, people, action figures, dolls house etc.

All are commercially available from charity and pound shops to specialist suppliers. All have the same quality of being open-ended, imaginative play resources. This means they are perfect for encouraging children to lead their own play.

However there is nothing more exciting than having a play partner (you) to model and join in with play with actions, noises, voices and stories.

Small world play is timeless and limitless.