



Little First-Aid Helper

Bandage the patient and become a little first-aid helper.

Helps Your Child Grow



Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Pretending to bandage an injured doll lets your child extend familiar caregiving actions into symbolic play and explore what a caring role involves.

Steps

- Gather adhesive bandages, gauze, and similar supplies. You and a stuffed bear will be the pretend patients, and your child will be the bandage helper.
- Begin with a demonstration. Hold your arm and say, “Mom fell and hurt this spot. It needs a bandage.”
- Bring out the supplies and let your child help wrap the gauze or apply an adhesive bandage so the caregiving role becomes clear.
- Then walk the bear over with a limp and say, “Bear got hurt too. Can you help?”
- Your child may repeat the actions, choose a different supply, and carefully tend to the bear’s pretend injury.
- When both patients are cared for, thank the helper: “Thank you! You helped us feel much better.”

Tips

- The actions begin as imitation, but using them to care for a pretend patient is an important step in developing symbolic play related to #C-ISRP.

Observations

- Uses gauze or an adhesive bandage on the bear’s pretend injury
- Shows concern when you pretend to be hurt