



Two Buddies Hospital 1

The emergency room is opening! Your child and a friend become little doctors and care for toy patients together, taking turns and working as a team.

Helps Your Child Grow



Relationships with Other Children

As they set up the emergency room and share jobs caring for their patients, your child practices taking turns, waiting, communicating, and working together.



Imitation and Symbolic Representation and Play

Pretend play supports symbolic thinking as your child uses words and actions to recreate familiar experiences.

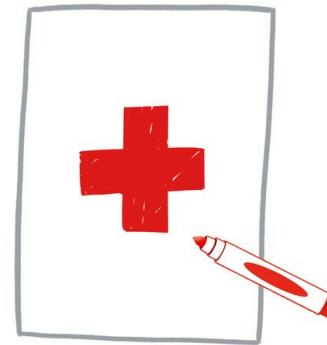


Soft Toy Animals



Medical Play set

Paper and Marker



What You'll Need

1. Stuffed animal
2. toy medical kit
3. white paper and markers
4. hospital sign made by drawing a red cross on the paper



Set Up the Emergency Room

Invite another child over for a pretend-play activity. Let the children set up the space together. They can be the doctors, while the adults play nurses and the stuffed animals are the patients. Once everything is ready, use your best nurse voice to announce that the first patients have arrived.

Observations

- Helps another child set up the emergency room
- Recalls what a hospital is like and names familiar items found there

Tips

- Along with the toy medical kit, tape a red cross sign to the wall and draw check-in cards for the “patients” to make the play area feel more like a hospital.
- If the children reach for the same toy, offer similar toys or give each child a different job: “You set out the stethoscope, and you organize the bandages.”
- If the children seem shy, each adult can model offering or sharing a toy with the other child to help the interaction get started.



Doctors and Nurses Team Up

Pair each adult with their own child to care for a patient. Describe what is wrong and ask what the patient needs. If your child is unsure, demonstrate with a tool and ask, "What should we do next?" Once your child knows the routine, bring in a new patient - such as a puppy - that needs everyone's help.

Observations

- Pretends to be a doctor, using medical tools to figure out what is wrong
- Asks you to hold the "patient" still while treating them

Tips

- Use the patient's features to start the story. For example, pretend that a dinosaur's horn is a big bump that needs care.
- When your child asks for help, follow their directions by handing over a tool or holding the patient steady.
- If they do not ask, gently say, "Need help?"



Doctors Work Together

Encourage the children to treat the patient together. Add a new symptom now and then to keep the story going. If they are unsure how to work together, break the treatment into simple jobs and let the little doctors take turns. When the patient feels better, remember to thank the doctors.

Observations

- Works with another child to help the patient, such as taking the pretend medicine from them
- Looks at you proudly after successfully “treating” the patient

Tips

- Help your child wait while they take turns: “Is your friend finished? When they’re done, it’s your turn.”
- Invite teamwork: “Oh no, our patient is very sick! All the little doctors need to help.”
- Thank the doctors in the patient’s voice so they can enjoy the feeling of helping someone and end the game on a happy note.