



Give the Doll a Bath

Act out a familiar bath routine with a doll.

Helps Your Child Grow



Memory

Giving a doll a pretend bath asks your child to recall their own bath routine, organize its steps, and apply that memory in a new play situation.



Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Scrubbing, rinsing, and combing during pretend doll care gives your child practice coordinating the hands through familiar self-care actions.

Steps

- During your child's bath, describe the usual sequence as you do it: "First we wash your hair. Close your eyes - now we rinse out the bubbles."
- Once the sequence is familiar, invite your child to give a doll a pretend bath.
- Let your child lead and use the steps they remember from beginning to end.
- If the order gets mixed up - for example, they reach for the towel while the doll still has bubbles - point to what is visible: "There are still bubbles on the doll's head. What comes before drying?"
- If your child cannot recall the next step, connect it to the real routine: "What do we use after rinsing? We dry with a towel, and then we comb your hair."
- Keep your prompts in the same order as your child's usual bath so the pretend play reinforces a familiar sequence.

Tips

- Offer familiar pretend-bath items, such as a small basin, washcloth, towel, comb, toothbrush, and an empty bottle for pretend body wash.

Observations

- ☐ Bathes the doll by following their own bathing routine
- ☐ Bathes the doll independently by making foam and wiping its body