



**Norfolk**  
County Council

# Imaginative play activity

**NHS**



**Imaginative play is extremely important for learning new skills and developing language.**

- Using their favourite toy, encourage your child to brush its hair, give it a drink, brush its teeth, put it to bed etc. or go to the shop.
- Talk to your child about what they are doing and talk to their favourite toy too. At first, keep your sentences short e.g. teddy sleep.
- Introduce new words in play, e.g. if your child says "brush hair", you might say "you are brushing teddy's hair".

**Talk  
& Play**

*all through the day*



# Pillowcase activity



- Using a pillowcase or small bag, put inside up to 10 items from around the house, e.g. Cup, brush, book, teddy, shoe, hat etc.
- Allow your toddler to feel inside the bag and pull out an item.
- Give them time to try and name what it is.
- After 10 seconds, provide a choice for the name of item, e.g. “shoe or teddy”.
- If they are still unsure, name the item for them. Repeat to allow your toddler to hear the word and make the connection between the word and item.
- Use gestures to show what the item is, e.g. drink from the cup.
- Repeat with the same items.
- You might like to include things like toy farm animals.

