

Around the House

Level 1: Around the House

Lesson Focus: Pretend Play

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then your toddler probably lavishes you with flattery throughout the day. You might notice your child “driving” in the backseat, putting a diaper on a favorite stuffed animal, or even “taking a photo” and “posting” it to Facebook with your phone. All of this imitation helps your toddler to begin experiencing the world from an external point of view.

For toddlers, imitating the behaviors they see around them is an early stage of pretend play and lays the groundwork for the development of empathy, emotional intelligence, creativity, and imagination. In Kindermusik class each week, we include themes about familiar activities your toddler may experience every day at home. So, while your child imitates a dog barking, pretends to look for a lost dog, or even pretends to be Rover sitting down, lying down, and rolling over, your little one is exploring and developing pretend play.

Everyday Connection: *A box is a box—unless it's not.* A box may be a box to you, but to your child it can be a computer, a car, an elevator, or a baby bed. Before heading to the recycle bin, encourage your child's pretend play with an empty box or a paper towel tube.