

Reception EYFS: Autumn Term Developing Imagination & Communication	Reception EYFS: Spring Term Extending Play & Building Language	Reception EYFS: Summer Term Leadership, Imagination & Real-World Contexts
Role Play Themes Home Corner Doctor's Surgery Shop/Supermarket	Role Play Themes Post Office Fire Station Building Site Vets Surgery	Role Play Themes Travel Agents / Airport Restaurant / Café Zoo / Safari Park Beach / Holiday Hut
Focus Area: To introduce role play as a space where children explore real-life experiences, develop social skills, use new vocabulary, and build confidence expressing themselves in imaginative contexts.	Focus Area: To deepen children's imaginative thinking, extend vocabulary and storytelling, and support collaborative role play with increasingly complex ideas, settings, and roles.	Focus Area: To enable children to confidently lead, extend, and adapt their own imaginative play. Role play becomes a tool for rich storytelling, problem-solving, and expressive communication as children draw on all previous learning and experiences.
Aims: - Settle children into role play routines. - Encourage basic imaginative play with familiar settings. - Begin using themed vocabulary and simple narratives.	Aims: - Encourage children to take on roles and build sustained narratives. - Introduce new themes that extend knowledge and language. - Foster collaborative play and negotiation.	Aims: - Enable children to lead their own imaginative scenarios. - Apply real-world understanding in role play. - Use extended vocabulary and storytelling skills.
Key Vocabulary: Hello, goodbye, please, thank you Home, dinner, cook, baby, clean Shop, buy, money, basket, till Doctor, patient, sick, better	Key Vocabulary: Fire engine, emergency, rescue Post, letter, parcel, deliver Builder, bricks, plan, tools Vet, pet, poorly, medicine	Key Vocabulary: Travel, ticket, journey, suitcase Restaurant, menu, order, chef, waiter Zoo, animals, keeper, visitor Holiday, airport, passport, map
Activities & Resources: - Dress-up clothes (aprons, coats) - Toy food, baby dolls, kitchen sets	Activities & Resources: - Uniforms and themed props (fire hats, tool belts) - Parcels, envelopes, stamps, post bags	Activities & Resources: - Suitcases, globes, tickets, maps - Menus, notepads, trays, table settings

- Notepads, clipboards, pretend money - Doctor's kits, bandages, phones	- Toy pets and vet kits - Construction blocks, blueprints, signs	- Animal figures, enclosures, binoculars - Sunglasses, towels, sand play, travel brochures
Enhancements for Continuous Provision: • Labels and picture-word cards • Real food packaging and empty containers • Mark-making tools for prescriptions/lists • Photos/posters of real-life settings (shops, homes)	Enhancements for Continuous Provision: • Writing cards, checklists, and story prompts • Maps, labelled signs, safety posters • Role play 'job' boards • Phones and walkie-talkies for communication	Enhancements for Continuous Provision: • Theme-linked books and story props • Real-world photos (e.g., airports, cafés) • Writing tools for signs, maps, lists, menus • Digital role play (e.g., booking screens)
Assessment Opportunities: • Are children engaging in simple role play alone or with others? • Can they use themed vocabulary independently? • Do they stay in role and respond appropriately to others?	Assessment Opportunities: • Are children building more complex storylines? • Do they take turns and negotiate roles? • Are they using role play to solve problems or explore ideas?	Assessment Opportunities: • Can children create and adapt stories independently? • Do they work together on shared scenarios and stay in role? • Are they drawing on real-life experiences and vocabulary?
EYFS Areas of Learning Covered: ELG: Communication and Language - Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions. - Offer explanations and express ideas. - Use recently introduced vocabulary appropriately. ELG: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) - Show resilience and perseverance. - Work and play cooperatively. - Show sensitivity to their own and others' needs. ELG: Expressive Arts and Design - Safely use and explore a variety of materials.		

- Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories.
- Role-play and pretend using props and imagination.

Prompts and Questions for Adults During Role Play in EYFS

Encouraging Communication & Language

- “Who are you today?”
- “What’s happening in your role play?”
- “What might you say if you were really a ____?”
- “Can you tell me what’s going to happen next?”
- “What do you need to help you do your job?”

Supporting Imagination & Storytelling

- “What is your story about today?”
- “Who else is in your story?”
- “What will happen if...?”
- “Can you make up a problem and solve it?”
- “What would happen next if we added a new character?”

Encouraging Collaboration & Social Skills

- “Who else could join in with you?”
- “Can you ask your friend to help?”
- “How can you work together?”
- “What’s your job? What’s their job?”
- “How will you take turns or share?”

Extending Ideas

- “What else might you find in a real ____?”
- “Could we add anything to make it more like the real thing?”
- “Can you think of something we could pretend this is?”
- “What do we need to open your shop/hospital/post office?”

- “How can we make it more exciting?”

Linking to Real-World Experiences

- “Have you been to a place like this before?”
- “What did you see/hear/do when you were there?”
- “Can you remember what the people there wore?”
- “What kind of things did they say?”
- “What rules do people follow in this place?”

Encouraging Mark-Making and Early Writing

- “Can you write a menu/list/invitation/ticket for this?”
- “Would you like to make a sign for your area?”
- “Can you take notes like a real vet/waiter/doctor?”
- “Shall we make labels for these items?”

Exploring Maths in Role Play

- “How much will that cost?”
- “Do you have enough money?”
- “Can you count how many you need?”
- “Who is first in the queue?”
- “Can you set the table for 4 people?”

General Prompts to Deepen Thinking

- “What might happen if...?”
- “How will you fix that?”
- “Why do you think that happened?”
- “Can you show me how that works?”
- “What could you do differently next time?”