



Opus's Pretend Performance

Instructions for Grown-Ups:

Focus: Cognitive Skills (Imagination & Object Use)

Opus dreamed of being a dancer on a stage. This activity helps your child develop their imagination and understand how to play pretend.

What You'll Need:

A few stuffed animals or dolls.

Simple props like a blanket, a scarf, or a plastic cup.

Instructions:

Set up the stuffed animals in a line. Say, "Look! All the toys have come to watch our show, just like in the book."

Use the props to set the stage. Drape a blanket over a chair to make a "curtain" or give your child a scarf to wear as a "costume".

Take turns being the performer! You can go first to show how it's done. Say, "Now it's my turn to be the dancer!" Do a little wiggle or a spin.

Then, encourage your child to perform. "Now it's your turn! Show the toys your wonderful dance."

Clap and cheer for them when they are done. You can even use the plastic cup as a "microphone" to announce them.

What Your Child is Learning:

Pretend play is crucial for cognitive growth. It teaches children to think symbolically (a scarf is a costume), understand sequences (first we set up, then we perform), and explore different roles.