COMMUNITY ROLES - DOCTOR

Materials you need:

- A table covered in a vinyl tablecloth
- Soft toys and dolls to use as patients (along with the children)
- Real bandages and Band-Aids
- Blankets and handtowels or scarfs
- Mats or rest time beds for big patients – dolly beds and boxes for the not so real patients
- Simple doctor props like stethoscope, thermometer, white coat, tweezers, cotton balls, cotton buds, pieces of kitchen sponge cut to make little pads.
- Old diary, some pens and a phone or keyboard (for the receptionist!)
- Shirts from the op shop to use as doctor's coats
- Clipboard and pen for doctor

Setup for play:

- Set up an invitation to take on the role of doctor and customer by placing all the items on the table to create a local doctor's surgery.
- Invite children to bring their special patients in to be fixed then stand back and watch the play evolve. It's better to let the children lead their play on this one as you have already provided the props and materials to work with. Now it's time for the imagination to shine!

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children take on the role of Doctor they are learning to:

- Use descriptive language and become independent communicators
- Use their play to imagine and explore ideas
- Work together in a group with others
- Use hand/eye coordination skills and demonstrate spatial awareness
- Manipulate equipment and real-life tools with increasing competence
- Strengthen fine motor muscles and control
- Use their senses to explore and choose materials
- Acknowledge and understand different roles in their community
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning

Extending the play:

- Read stories that feature doctor's or watch a video of doctors and hospitals in action.
- Ask the children to design their own 'doctors' office' signs.
- Make felt plaster casts and bandages to add to your hospital prop box by [following these directions.](#)