

DOMAIN 1: APPROACHES TO LEARNING AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**SUB-DOMAIN: COGNITION AND COGNITIVE PROCESSES****REPRESENTATIONAL THOUGHT AND PLAY****GOAL 15: CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN PRETEND OR SYMBOLIC PLAY.**

Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
6 to 18 Months	Use senses and mobility to explore functions of objects and actions, with symbolic play evolving as a result of the functional exploration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uses objects functionally. ▪ Uses objects symbolically. ▪ Uses simple abstraction (a stick for a spoon, a tissue for a blanket). ▪ Makes animal sounds when prompted. ▪ Uses make-believe play to represent typical situations and functions from the child's daily life (e.g. rocking or feeding a baby doll). ▪ Imitates adults and older children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tell child stories about daily events or something special that happened, with the child as the central character. ▪ Expose child to make-believe stories and songs from a variety of cultures. ▪ Demonstrate and engage child in making a variety of animal sounds, matched with pictures of animals or when present, real animals. ▪ Recognize child's cues to engage in play. ▪ Help coordinate child's initiations with other children (e.g. child tries to "feed" another child, or child puts hat on other child). ▪ Respond to children's looks or sounds for engaging with another. ▪ Provide props and opportunities for imaginative play.