

DO THIS AT HOME

Individual Theme Kits

Try this activity at home to show your child that you are interested in his interests!

What Your Child Will Learn

When you take the time to learn about your child's interests and plan for activities and play experiences that encourage these interests, your child learns that you are interested and tuned in to him. It sends a clear message to your child of caring, connection, and support. Your child will be able to explore his interests in more detail, allowing his imagination to soar.

Materials Needed

container (such as a shoebox)

small items and materials related to something your child is interested in

What to Do

- ▶ Spend several days observing and listening to your child, and ask him questions about the things that interest him.
- ▶ Collect items that represent those interests and place them in the container. For example, if you have noticed that your child has an interest in dogs, you can collect plastic dogs, pictures of dogs, small books about dogs, and so on.
- ▶ Once you have enough materials in the container, let your child help label and decorate it and talk to your child about all the wonderful items inside.
- ▶ Use the theme kit to enhance your child's play experience anywhere, even on family trips to visit relatives or friends.

*You can download this activity and the other at-home activities in this book at www.centerforresilientchildren.org/SSES.