

How does my child benefit from farm play?



The ball roll in the orchard allows for open-ended exploration. To learn about the world, children observe, question, sort, compare, hypothesize, predict, and problem solve. Hey, this sounds like the development of science inquiry skills!



Let's sort the balls and use them as apples and lemons. Put them in the wheelbarrows and we will take them to our farm tractors.



Simple open-ended materials are "loose parts" which inspire creativity and allow many children to create their own unique play experiences.

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Welcome to Lucky Duck Farm



Did you know that the amount of time children spend engaged in free play is diminishing across our nation?

When you and I were free to PLAY and roam in our friends' backyards and imagine we were farmers, cows, sheep and cooks in the kitchen - it was helping us problem solve and develop critical thinking skills. Lucky Duck Farm is specifically designed for children to explore, discover and learn through play.

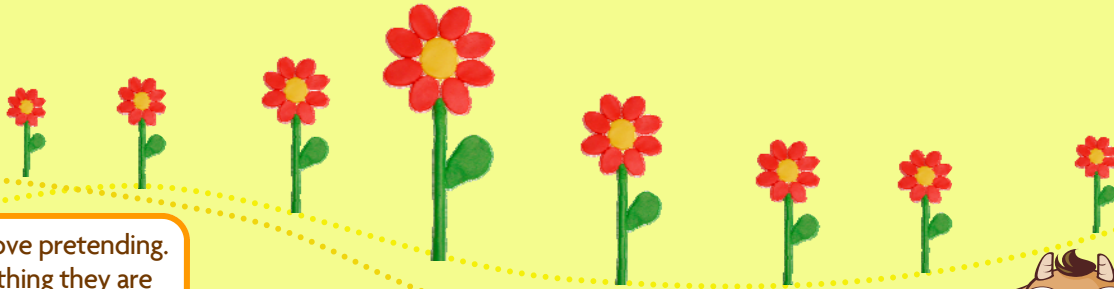


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My children love pretending. Is there something they are learning through pretend play?



Are there opportunities for me to join in the play?



Imaginative, or pretend play, is especially important for learning and expressing new ideas and emotions, trying out new skills, and developing empathy for others.



My children have lots of physical energy. What does Lucky Duck Farm offer them?

Play with friends and with family is abundant on the farm. When playing with your child, consider asking open-ended questions that encourage reflection or exploration. Questions like – “What if...?” Why do you think...?”



You be the farmer - I will be a sheep, and you put me to sleep. You cook some veggies from the garden, make muffins, set the table and clean up. I will fix the tractors and carry a load of apples to market. You feed the animals some hay in the barn and milk the goat. I will pick, roll, sort and transport apples. Let's use the blankets for a fort and hide the animals under them.



Encourage safe, gentle play. Allow your child to direct the play. Engage in your child's activities by playing alongside her, dressing up with her, eating her treat, or filling her bucket.



Children develop body awareness in the hay loft and mouse hole. Large muscles develop as they sweep the house, climb into the hay loft, lift a load of hay, dig, carry buckets, gallop the horses, drive tractors, and move like animals. Wheelbarrows carry heavy loads and build balancing skills.



Imaginative play helps children grow cognitively, as well as socially and emotionally.



When I set the table or cook food in the farmhouse, plant or pick in the garden, put on costumes, play with small horses, or manipulate balls and tubes in the orchard, I sure use my hands and fingers a lot.



Model respect for the museum and other guests by cleaning up with your children and making sure they play gently and kindly with the exhibit and with others.