

Play is how children learn. They can explore, problem-solve, and model what they see happening around them daily. You are your child's first teacher. They must learn what 'pretend' play is from those around them. The pretend play connection is taking what is in their physical world and making it pertain to them personally. Playing as a dinosaur, a pirate, a mommy, a daddy, a pet, a firefighter, or anything else gives them the play practice to understand the people and things around them in their daily lives.

Outside Play - Dinosaur

If you little are into dinosaurs creating an outside playtime where you stomp, chomp, jump, and roar can happen anywhere. Use a playground like an obstacle course; move around repeatedly while roaring, using your hands like a T-rex, your wings like a pterodactyl swooping down to scoop fish out of the water stomping like a triceratops.



If you want to add music to this playtime, there is a lot of fun, short songs on YouTube or other music platforms to have to play while you play.

[Do the Dino Stomp!](#) | [Dinosaur Songs for Kids](#) | [Dance Like Dinosaurs!](#) | [Nursery Rhymes | JunyTony - YouTube](#)

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Outside Play – Careers

Playing outside is a great way to explore different professional careers, from being a firefighter, train conductor, farmer, truck driver, construction, painter. Outside pretend play can be spontaneous, adult started, and then child-led. Have your child mimic the sounds and actions, and then you mimic them back when they initiate. Emotions carry memory; when you are silly, having fun together will leave a memory for your child to pull from again. The foundation of the play will begin to be created so that you can add on to the play.



["Little Red Caboose" by The Laurie Berkner Band](#) | [Best Kids Songs - YouTube](#)

[Jobs Song #2](#) | [What Do You Do?](#) | [Fun Kids English - YouTube](#)



Outside Play – Daily Life Playing outside is also a great way to incorporate life skills into play. Painting the house, fence with a bucket of water and a paintbrush, bringing soap and bubbles outside to wash trucks, babies, 'clothes,' create a 'kitchen' where you can make pretend food with water, sand, plastic foods. The ideas can be endless! Yes, some of these ideas take some planning. Yes, your child will get wet, maybe messy, and **YES, they will be learning so much through play; cause and effect, science, big muscle and fine motor, math, language and have the opportunity to explore all of this through playing!**



[Best Kids Songs - "Drive My Car " by Laurie Berkner \(The Ultimate Laurie Berkner Band CD\) - YouTube](#)

[Over The Deep Blue Sea](#) | [Kids Songs](#) | [Super Simple Songs - YouTube](#)



Lesson Plan created by: AnnMarie Adams

Images: Google stock images, Photo: Emily Adams, daughter of AnnMarie Adams

