

# A Tinker Tray Play Guide to Small World Play

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## What is Small World Play?

Small world play is the creation of real life or fantasy scenes in miniature. This could be a farmyard or a fairy glade. Children can play in a variety of ways using props and scenery to create a mini play world to really spark their imaginations.



## How can I support small world play?

You can support small world play by providing open ended resources that children can appropriate in multiple ways. Natural materials like sticks and stones, household objects like clothes pegs and cotton reels, loose parts like small boxes, buttons and fabrics. All of these items can be imagined into any number of objects by children as they create wonderful small world scenes.



## What do children learn from small world play?

Small world gives children an outlet for imaginative and creative play. Often small world scenes are taken from real life so it's a wonderful opportunity to consolidate their learning and experience of real-life activities and practice those things through play.

Because small world is often a group activity, social skills are involved with turn taking and collaborative play. This also introduces shared language and new vocabulary and helps to develop communication skills.

Independent play also benefits from these same aspects as children develop the narratives that accompany their play.

This story telling aspect is such a great part of small world play. As children envision and imagine the actions taking place in their small world scene, they talk out loud, assign voices and vocabulary to their characters and really engage with the scene unfolding through their play.

