

Self-Expression

Play-based learning is a developmentally appropriate best-practice for early literacy learning. From the clothes we wear to the way we style or cover our hair, from the things we choose to the things our bodies can do, **Self-Expression** supports children in discovering how to show their individuality and relate to others. This guide shares an array of ways for children to have fun learning about self-expression while enhancing their literacy skills. Follow these suggestions to create self-expression-themed centers in your early childhood classroom.

SELF-EXPRESSION DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Dramatic play center: Dramatic play inspires imagination, develops speaking and listening skills, fosters social skills such as sharing and turn taking, and supports children to acquire new vocabulary. A dramatic play center should include a theme, props, and adult guidance to enhance language development. Also include environmental print such as signs, labels, and authentic writing opportunities.



SUGGESTED PROPS

- Salon accessories
- Barber accessories
- Cash register

RIF PRINTABLES

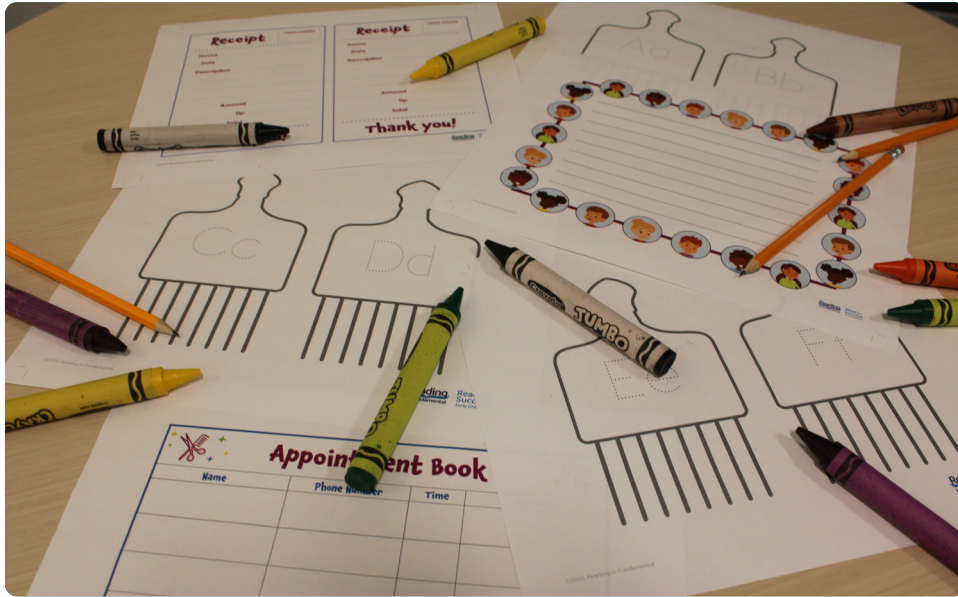
- Cosmetology certificate
- “Choose a style” poster
- Salon services poster
- Mirrors
- Pricing list
- Waiting area banner



ADULT GUIDANCE: Use these suggested leveled questions and narrations to support children’s play.

- **Level 1:** “Where is the brush? Point to it.”
- **Level 2:** “Is this a comb or a brush?”
- **Level 3:** “How are you going to style your hair?”
- **Level 4:** “How do you know if the hair is dry? How can you dry it?”
- “You are looking at the different products on your shelf and grabbing the shampoo to wash their hair.”
- “They are using the comb to smooth out every strand. What a gentle touch!”
- “This salon is buzzing with busy workers. What a popular place!”

WRITING CENTER



Young children benefit from exposure to different styles and purposes for writing. At your writing center include different types of paper and writing materials, a sound-spelling chart, and vocabulary cards. Help children see that writing has different purposes by providing examples of different types of writing such as friendly letters, storybooks, party invitations, and more.

RIF PRINTABLES

- Self-expression border sheet (with and without lines)
- Comb alphabet tracing
- Appointment and receipt book

Every hair stylist knows the importance of keeping an appointment book! As a class, discuss the importance of staying organized and the ways writing can help you organize. Have students practice writing in the salon appointment book using RIF's Sound-Spelling Chart and Picture Vocabulary Cards.

NURSERY RHYME CENTER

Singing nursery rhymes help children develop phonological awareness which is important for developing phonics. Set up a center for children to sing their favorite nursery rhymes. Include the nursery rhyme, hand-made or printed displays, and puppets or props related to the nursery rhyme.

RIF PRINTABLES

- "I Love My Hair" by Gracie's Corner nursery rhyme
- "I Love My Hair" by Gracie's Corner puppets

