

Appropriate for :  
Young Toddlers and Older Toddlers.



## Dolls with Special Needs

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Soft dolls
- Felt, needle & thread

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut 4 white ½ inch wide strips that will wrap around the doll’s leg.
- Cut 4 gray ¼ inch strips the length of the doll’s leg.
- Stitch the leg braces on to your doll (see picture above).
- “Glasses”, “arm braces” or “hearing aids” can also be added to soft dolls.

### What the adult can do to support learning and development in these domains:

- Add doll with special needs to the dramatic play center along with photos of children with disabilities using adaptive equipment.
- Model acceptance by holding and singing to the doll.
- Pretend to feed the doll or put the doll to bed. Encourage the children to do the same.
- Point to and talk about the doll’s body parts.

### Examples of language that can be used between caregiver and child:

- “The baby is wearing leg braces to help her legs get stronger.”
- “I wear glasses to help me see. You use the stepstool to help you reach the sink.”
- “Let’s rock our babies to sleep so they can play together when they wake up!”
- “My baby likes applesauce for snack. What does your baby like?”

This activity highlights support for the following *NCFELD* domain:

Cognitive Development	Approaches to Play & Learning	Language Development & Communication	Emotional and Social Development	Health & Physical Development
-----------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------