

# Perspective Taking in the Classroom Vroom Tip™ Collection

## Follow My Fingers (0 – 12 Months)

**Vroom Tip:** With your child on their back, fly your hand above their face. Pretend your hand is a plane, a bird, or a car. Talk about what you're doing. Tell a story, make sounds, or sing. Do they grab your fingers, watch your hands move, or kick? Try different ideas to find what they like best.

**Brainy Background:** Your child is learning to pay attention and use self-control as they follow your movements. You're also helping them learn that objects can stand for other things. Your hand can be a plane or a car. This ability is important for learning to read and write later on.

## Here We Go (6 months – 2 years)

**Vroom Tip:** With your child on your lap, pretend you're riding together on different things. First say, "We're on a horse. Neigh!" while bouncing up and down. Then say, "Now we're in a race car!" and move quickly from side to side. Watch their reaction to the motions and repeat the ones that they like.

**Brainy Background:** Switching between different ways of moving gives your child practice with responding flexibly to a changing situation. You're helping them learn to focus on what's happening, a skill that is essential for learning and life.

## Play Kitchen (12 months – 3 years)

**Vroom Tip:** Work together with your child to create a play kitchen by offering them pots, spoons, and other safe kitchen items. Use the top of a table as a stove and ask them what they need to make food, like soup. Pretend to put in ingredients and take turns stirring and tasting your creation!

**Brainy Background:** Pretending is essential to learning. In addition to learning more about everyday life like cooking, children are learning that one thing can stand for something else (a table is a stove). This is an ability they will also use learning that letters stand for sounds or numbers stand for quantities of things.

## Homemade Play (12months – 3 years)

**Vroom Tip:** What can you find in your house to play pretend with your child? Offer them clothes, blankets, empty boxes, or clean and safe kitchen objects to use. Follow their lead and see where it takes you. If you need to, you can give them ideas like, "Should we build a boat or pretend to cook dinner?"

**Brainy Background:** Playing pretend is a great way for your child to explore ideas and practice language skills. They also get to try on different roles, like being a parent or a baby, and to see the world through other people's eyes. This is an important skill for getting along with others.

### Be a Fixer (2-3 years)

Vroom Tip: Pretend to fix things with your child. With a plastic spoon, pretend to fix a hinge on a kitchen cabinet. "I'm fixing this broken hinge on the cabinet door. Now it's your turn." After their turn, hold out your hand saying, "My turn!" Keep taking turns, smiling while you work.

Brainy Background: Pretending is an important way that children make sense of their world. When children pretend, they learn that one thing (a plastic spoon) can stand for something else (a tool to fix a broken hinge). That is the basis of understanding symbols, which is important to literacy and math.

### Home Shopping (3-5 years)

Vroom Tip: Encourage your child to set up a store at home using items from around the house. Once the shelves are stocked, they can pretend to go shopping. Help them make a shopping list and find a bag or basket. You can be the cashier. Talk with them about what they're shopping for. Then switch. You can shop, and they can be the cashier.

Brainy Background: Pretending is a fun way for your child to make sense of their experiences. They are using memory to use what they already know about shopping to pretend with you. Plus, they're thinking flexibly to switch between roles of shopper and cashier.

### Imagination Station (3-5 years)

Vroom Tip: When you're waiting at a stoplight, bus stop, or train platform, make up a story together about someone across the street or on the opposite platform. Where is the woman in the hat going? What will she do when she gets there? Try to elaborate on your child's ideas.

Brainy Background: When you're telling stories, have your child think about how the character in the story might think and feel. This will help them learn how to see other people's point of view. It's a valuable skill that we all use every day, adults and children!

### Silly Charades (4-5 years)

Vroom Tip: Play a game where you pretend to be an animal, object, or someone you both know. See if your child can guess who or what you are. Clues like sound effects or movements are helpful. When your child guesses, have them take a turn and you guess. Enjoy!

Brainy Background: Pretending is fun! It not only helps you see someone else's point of view, it also builds communication skills. Guessing is great too. In this game your child is learning to pay attention to figure out the clues. This game also makes us think back and use what we already know in a new way!

### Something New (4-5 years)

Vroom Tip: Encourage your child to quietly look around the room for something they haven't noticed before. After a few moments, invite them to share what they noticed. Make sure to tell them what you saw for the first time, too, "I noticed a new book on the shelf!" Take turns looking and sharing.

Brainy Background: It takes self-control for your child to stay quiet and tune out distractions as they pay attention to details. You help them learn people view the world in different ways when you share what you see. Children who learn to understand others' perspectives get along better with others.