

Documenting Children's Play-A journal entry...

(Observing individual children over time can reveal emerging patterns and insights into their preferred ways of playing. You can see their growing imaginations and competencies, and these provide opportunities for you to see how their minds work, how they form relationships, and how they take care of themselves and others. These observations also offer opportunities for deeper conversations with their families.

Nancy is a family childcare provider and has begun to gather pictures and observations in a portfolio. Notice how she use her anecdotal notes to see the emerging patterns and gain insight into Vinnie's preferred ways of playing.)

The costume makes the play

"...And costume is so important for an actor. It absolutely helps to get into character; it's the closest thing to you, it touches you. Some actors like to go into make-up and then put their clothes on, but I like to dress first; that's my routine."

Gary Oldman



I Can Fly

Vinnie loves trying on the different outfits in our dress-up area. With each one he dons, Vinnie's face fills with fascination and a new adventure begins. Today he put on a costume with wings and immediately headed outside, skipping across the yard with his arms extended at his side and flapping in the air. As he approached the climber he stopped for a moment, looking over his shoulder as if to confirm that his wings were still there. Then up the climber he went, and with a big leap, he launched himself in the air, squealing with delight.

Vinnie and Kailee Rest with the Baby Dolls

The children who frequent our yard swing for the gentle, soothing movement. Sometimes they chat and giggle with a friend, read a story, or share a book with me. They also use it for endless scenarios of pretend play.

Today, Vinnie and Kailee carry their baby dolls on the bikes, and move from blanket to blanket where little sea life creatures and other dress-up props await them. They stop at these blankets and talk about being underwater and then try out being the sea creatures themselves. Then on to the swing, where they show us it is clearly time for a rest after all that activity. Snuggling down and pretending to sleep with the baby dolls, Vinnie and Kailee squeeze their eyes tight in between peeks at each other and little giggles.

This is so in character for Vinnie, who has an ever-expanding imagination. He is also a great storyteller, often talking about his sister. In real life, he doesn't have one, but he continually has stories about her.



Thank you Deb Curtis and Margie Carter, [Art of Awareness](#), pgs. 125-126.

"Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning."

- Gloria Steinem