



Based on the image of the preschool dramatic play area, here are three activities designed to support engagement:

1. Restaurant Role-Play Activity

Area Used: Table with tablecloth, play kitchen with food items, dress-up clothes

Materials: Play food, dishes, apron or uniform, notepads for taking orders, menus (teacher-created or child-made)

Description:

Children can take turns being the server, cook, or customer in a restaurant. They can take orders, "cook" meals using the play food, and serve each other at the table.

Why It Supports Engagement:

- Encourages imaginative and cooperative play
 - Incorporates literacy (writing orders, reading menus)
 - Supports social interaction and turn-taking
- Extension Ideas:** Add printed menus, play money, or a tip jar for added roles and complexity.
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2. Community Helper Dramatic Play

Area Used: Pegboard with hard hats, safety vests, doctor coat, and mirror

Materials: Dress-up clothes, props like clipboards, toy tools, or medical kits

Description:

Children can pretend to be construction workers, doctors, firefighters, or postal workers. They can build, "diagnose" patients, or deliver mail around the classroom.

Why It Supports Engagement:

- Children act out real-life scenarios with rich vocabulary
- Promotes problem-solving and role-switching
- Supports gross and fine motor development (e.g., using tools, writing)
Extension Ideas: Add themed books, photo cards of real community helpers, or job site maps.

3. Art Critique Gallery Walk

Area Used: Wall with children's artwork and photos

Materials: Clipboards, pencils, stickers, or smiley face stamps

Description:

Turn the classroom into an "art museum." Children can walk around the room, view artwork, and write or draw what they like about each piece. They can also "vote" for their favorites using stickers.

Why It Supports Engagement:

- Builds observation and expressive language skills
- Encourages appreciation of peers' work
- Supports early writing and drawing as communication
Extension Ideas: Invite children to create their own art to add to the gallery or present their work to the class.

Here's a tiered version of the **Art Critique Gallery Walk** to meet children at various developmental levels and support full participation, including accommodations for children with fine motor delays:

Art Critique Gallery Walk – Differentiated Levels

Level	Description	Materials	Skills Targeted	Instructions
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Beginner (Introductory Level)	Focuses on simple observation and verbal expression	- Clipboards or lapboards- Adult scribe or sticky dots- Visuals: happy/sad faces, color swatches	- Verbal language- Color/shape recognition- Confidence in sharing opinions	1. Walk with a teacher or peer.2. Choose favorite artwork.3. Point and say what you like ("I see red," "I like this").4. Place a smiley sticker or color swatch next to the favorite piece.
Advanced (More Independent Learners)	Adds writing/drawing to reflect on the artwork	- Clipboards, pencils or crayons- "Art Reviewer" response sheet: - What colors do you see? - What do you like? - How does it make you feel?	- Early writing- Reflection- Expressive language	1. Walk independently or in pairs.2. Choose 2–3 pieces to reflect on.3. Draw or write simple words or phrases about each piece.4. Share thoughts with the group if desired.
Accommodations for Fine Motor Delays	Emphasizes accessibility through choice-based and motor-friendly options	- Large stamps/stickers - Picture response cards (e.g., "I like the colors," "This makes me happy")- Partner support or dictation- Audio recorders (optional)	- Visual scanning- Communication through choice- Peer interaction	1. Walk the gallery with a partner or adult.2. Use stamp or point to pre-made picture response cards.3. Say or sign your preference; an adult can scribe or record it.4. Celebrate choice and participation.

Tips for Implementation:

- Include visuals for all levels to support multilingual learners and non-readers.
- Keep the experience child-led—focus on self-expression, not correctness.

- Create a reflection wall where children's comments or choices are displayed under each artwork.