

## Make-Believe Games

Imagination is healthy. Unfortunately, many toys and games these days actually stifle the imagination. If there is any indication of the future success of children, it is the amount of imaginative, or make-believe play they engage in on a daily basis. Many parents overlook this critical factor and begin to push learning games or toys with built-in story lines.

### From Real-Life to Virtual

Young children almost always begin to play using their imaginations. Toy kitchens and doll houses help little kids act like the grown-ups they admire. Of course, the minute the children discover the wonders of the internet, much of this imaginative play begins to fade, but it doesn't have to.

There are opportunities online for make-believe games. Although many games children play via the internet involve predetermined actions and plot sequences, this is not the case for all. Some games utilize the imagination more than even traditional toys. Online dolls offer young girls a chance to stretch not only their fashion sense but their imagination as well.

### Playing Make-Believe Games

It may seem simple to the casual observer. Stick some clothes on a doll and you have a finished creation. But it is much more than that to the regulars. Every aspect of online play has great significance. Choosing the right base is the first step – is the doll going to represent the doll maker, or is she trying her hand at something new? Then clothing is selected based on what that doll is going to be doing or represent.

Young girls with rich imaginations love playing [dress up games](#) with these dolls. The dolls can lead wild fantasy lives or do literally anything the doll maker wishes. Young girls can try on imaginary personalities or styles, or create avatars and characters to be used for any number of games and contests.

Many doll creation sites, like [TheDollPalace.com](#), offer more than simple doll creation software. They give girls a chance to find others interested in the same sort of make-believe games and imaginary worlds. Doll Palace offers forums and opportunities to share stories about dolls. Not only are the girls creating these complex dolls, they are writing histories and stories for their characters as well.

### The Benefits of Make-Believe Games

If it is not already obvious, make-believe games, such as these online dolls, give children an opportunity to flex their creative muscle. Creativity and imagination are some of the most wonderful gifts of childhood and often they are stomped out by excessive school work or games that trap players in certain characters or roles. Those that enjoy these dolls should be encouraged to continue playing, and parents interested in developing or fostering these skills in their own children should seek out make-believe games.

Of course the best way to interact with your child as well as encourage the use of the imagination is to sit down routinely with your daughter and ask about her dolls. Do they have a history or is there something special about each one? Parents will be amazed at the lengths doll makers will go to build a complete fantasy life around a simple online paper doll. Imagination is truly a wonder to behold.

### About the Author

This article was provided by The Doll Palace - creator of doll makers and fashion dress up games for girls. For more information about cartoon dolls, avatars and The Doll Palace, visit <http://www.thedollpalace.com>

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