This activity can help children use play to work on their feelings about when their parents go away and develop a sense of trust that grownups come back.

**Children are working on:**
- Feelings about separation
- Expressing feelings
- Developing self-control

**Materials:**
- Toy furniture or pictures of furniture from catalogs or magazines
- Toy people or figures drawn or cut from magazines or catalogs

**Directions:**
Talk with the children about the feelings they sometimes have when they have to leave home to come to child care or preschool, or when they leave child care or preschool to go home. Some children may not feel upset, and it's okay for children to express that idea, too. Or, children may have two very different feelings about the same thing. Playing about situations that are difficult for children can make feelings more manageable.

Have the children use small toy furniture to set up one model that represents the child-care setting or preschool and another that represents their home. Ask the children to use the toy people to pretend about leaving home for school and returning home at the end of the day.

Help the children think of good ways they can manage when they're upset about people going away and coming back. For example they can pretend about:
- Doing fun things at school or after school
- Saying "good-bye" to a pet or favorite stuffed animal before leaving home
- Waving good-bye to parents through a window at school
- Gathering their belongings just before they go home

Many teachers find it helpful to include, on their schedule, a picture of home at the end of the day.

**Books:**
*Hello! Good-bye!* by Aliki  
*When Mommy and Daddy Go to Work* by Joanna Cole  
*Don't Go!* by Jane Breskin Zelben  
*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn

**Related to Episode 103/ Strategy Song:**
*Grownups come back (… they do. Grownups come back to you)*