

Instant Meeting for 7-8 Year Olds

Drama & Theatre

Overall Goal:

Introduce your group to the exciting path of self discovery and the arts through sharing, creative thinking, singing, dancing, acting, and performing. Participants will learn to gain more confidence, make friends, respect their peers, and explore their artistic talents. Welcome to the world of drama and theatre!

Program Areas Covered:

Key to Me

Key to the Arts

We have included many activities.

Please pick and choose to what you feel is suitable for your group.

Opening

Enjoy your usual Opening.

Begin the meeting by explaining what drama and theatre is all about. You can say something along the lines of:

"Drama and theatre involves expressing yourself! We get a chance to share our stories, play different characters, practice role playing, and learn to work together. Today, we will be doing lots of activities where we are going to move around, get creative, speak up, and act! Don't be afraid to get up and show us your creative side! Let's begin!"

Introduce drama and theatre by doing the following preparatory activity together.

Share Your Friend!

This small introductory activity focuses on enhancing listening skills, memory/concentration, and public speaking.

Separate the group of participants into pairs of 2. Participants should be paired with other participants with whom they have not worked together previously or may not know so well. Give the pairs 5 minutes to discuss 5 things/characteristics about themselves. Both partners must share details about themselves within the 5 minutes (each partner has 2.5 minutes to speak). Emphasize that the partners must carefully listen to what the other is saying and remember those details about their partner.

Here is an example:

Partner 1: My name is Anna.
I am in grade 2.
I like to draw and colour.
My favourite food is pizza.
I love my pet dog. His name is Bruno!

Partner 2: My name is Riley.
I have 2 sisters.
I like to sing and dance.
I don't have any pets.
My favourite place is Disney World.

Image Source:
Google Images
<http://blog.kbellssocks.com/tag/cartoon-friends/>



Once all partners have had an opportunity to share something about themselves, ask all of the participants to return to the larger group. Sit in a circle together. Ask each participant to introduce not themselves, but their new friend, to the group.

Continuing from the example above:

Partner 1: Hi everyone! This is my friend Riley. She has 2 sisters. She likes to sing and dance. She doesn't have any pets. Riley's favourite place is Disney World.

After everyone has "shared their friend", have a round of applause to welcome everyone to the group and to set a positive mood for the meeting.

Now that everyone has an initial understanding of drama, have them participate in a combination of the following activities!

Activities

Alphabet Picnic

Objective:

Pretend you are going on a picnic but make sure that each item that is brought to the picnic starts with the next letter of the alphabet, starting with A!

Group size: 10-15

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Verbal improvisation skills
- Imagination
- Alphabet practice
- Thinking/Concentration



Image Source:
Microsoft Word
Clip Art

Sit in a circle. Pretend that everyone is going on a picnic. Everyone is allowed to bring one item with them. It can be any item of their choice, but it has to follow an alphabetical pattern. Begin by sharing what you will be bringing to the picnic; set the pattern by choosing an item that starts with the letter 'A'. Then ask the participant beside you what they will be bringing to the picnic. Go around the circle until everyone has shared their item and has successfully boarded the picnic trip.

Here is an example:

Person 1: I am bringing an airplane to the picnic. What are you bringing?

Person 2: I am bringing a boat to the picnic. What are you bringing?

Person 3: I am bringing my cat to the picnic. What are you bringing?

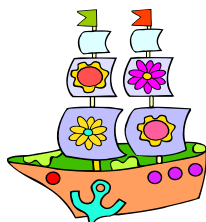


Image Source:
All 3 images to the left were
retrieved from Microsoft Word
Clip Art.

Visual Machines

Objective:

Connect sound and images together to create a visual machine!

Group size: 15-20

Duration: 15-20 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Practice performing combined sounds and movements
- Cooperation and Group Work
- Encourage creative thinking
- Observation skills
- Role Playing

Activity & Image Source:

Drama Resource

<http://dramaresource.com/games/mime-and-movement/essence-machines>

This activity provides a useful technique for generating physical and aural ideas around a theme. Explain that the group is going to create a "machine" out of themselves. Name a topic and give the participants a few moments to think of a repeating sound and action linked to that theme. For example, if the theme was "grocery shopping" a participant could mime picking a grocery item from a shelf, while saying "This is just what I need."



As soon as someone has an idea, ask them to step into the centre of the circle to begin their repeating sound and movement. Ask if somebody else can think of a suitable way to add in their own idea. Gradually, more and more participants join in the activity. Some may be linked to existing parts of the "machine", while others may be separate. To continue the example above, a participant could join the action by becoming the grocery store assistant and saying "Can I help you look for anything else?", while another participant could be sweeping the aisle.

You may find that everybody wants to join in the activity, although be careful not to let it go on for too long or get too crazy. Once it is set up, the machine can be frozen, then played back at twice or half the "normal" speed. Themes could include: a football match, a meal in a restaurant, folk tales, Halloween, etc. You could have a machine that actually makes something, like chocolate biscuits or weather conditions

Disney Charades

Image Source:
Google Images
<http://disney-clipart.com/Disney-Character-Clipart.php>



Objective:

Play the classic game of charades but with a Disney touch!

Group size: 2 teams of 10 participants each (maximum)

Duration: 15-20 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Creative role playing
- Body movement/performance
- Imagination
- Cooperation and Group Work
- Observation skills

Divide the group into two teams, with a maximum of 10 participants on each team. Pick the team which will go first. The team that will be performing will send one member of their team to the stage/front of the group. The observing team will decide together which Disney character they want the opposing team member to enact. The observing team will then send a representative from their group to quietly instruct the actor on stage (whisper so the opposing team members cannot hear).

The performing actor/group member will have 2 minutes to enact the character/scene **without speaking** from the Disney movie chosen by the observing team. The rest of the performing team must try and guess the Disney character or Disney movie their team member is enacting. If the performing team is able to guess right, then in the next round, the observing team will send a member to the stage and the current performing team will get to decide a Disney character to enact for the opposing team member.

You can choose to keep track of points but it is not necessary. It is more important for the participants to work together, become comfortable performing in front of an audience, and practice using their creative imagination. To avoid having a really long game of Charades, you may decide that the first team to earn 5 points wins and that is when the activity ends.



Image Source:

Google Images

<http://www.fanpop.com/clubs/walt-disney-characters/images/19604075/title/disney-princess-lineup-wallpaper>

Mood-Reader Masks



Objective:

Create a craft by making your own mood mask and then share your expressions with all of your friends!

Group Size: 10-15

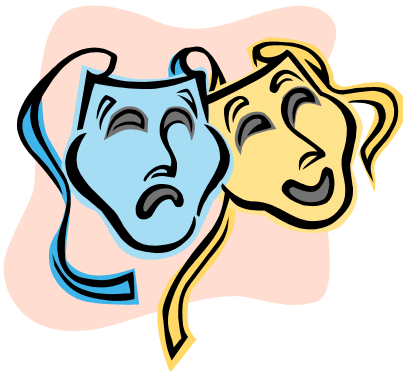
Duration: 30 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Encourage creative thinking
- Crafts making/drawing
- Imagination
- Oral/visual performance skills

Preparation Materials:

- Medium-sized paper plates
- Markers and/or paint
- Popsicle sticks
- Scissors
- Craft glue or masking tape



Body language is a valuable way to gain information. Someone's facial expression is a good indicator of their true feeling. Create a number of masks to express your different moods. Use your imagination and make all kinds of mood masks from paper plates.

Image Source:

All 3 images above were retrieved from Microsoft Word Clip Art.

For example: Make an 'angry' mood mask by following the steps below.

- Step 1: Using scissors, cut several paper plates in half.
- Step 2: Use markers or paint to draw angry eyes on the top half of the paper plate. This will become the 'eye mask'.
- Step 3: When the eye mask is dry, glue or tape a popsicle stick behind the eye mask on the left side of the half plate. The stick will be used to hold the eye mask up to one's eyes.

- Step 4: Use markers or paint to draw a frown or pout on the bottom half of the paper plate. This will become the 'mouth mask'.
- Step 5: When the mouth mask is dry, glue or tape a popsicle stick behind the mouth mask on the right side of the half plate. The stick will be used to hold the mouth mask over one's mouth.

Once the mood masks have been created, ask each participant to hold up either their 'eye mask' or 'mouth mask' over their face and act out their mood. Ask the rest of the participants to read the expression and guess which mood is being expressed. Once the group has made their guess, the acting participant can reveal the second half of their mask. Take turns sharing and guessing each participant's mood.



Image Source:
Google Images
<http://www.lifelessonsforlittleones.com/moody-masks>

Closing

Enjoy your regular Closing.

Return to a group circle. Have a quick discussion by asking the group to summarize what drama and theatre means to them. Follow up the discussion with questions about how they felt while performing on a stage or in front of an audience. Reinforce that the participants should always feel comfortable and confident about expressing their feelings. Have the participants bring home their craft to show their parents.

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