

Bringing Theatre Home

Dramatic play in the classroom is a great source of learning for children. We are happy to have our Whole School Theater Arts Unit planned for February so we can bring a little theater into each of our themes. We look forward to sharing our school theater activities with you during our Family Festival on March 9th, but we encourage families to incorporate theater into the home setting as well.

Enacting Books

Have your child choose his or her favorite short and simple book. Help her to list the characters in the book and props or outfits needed to enact the book choice. Making adult clothes and shoes available is a fun twist for the child. Help your child assign characters to parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, or pets. Allow your child to arrange the play how she would like it, and she will become the director of her own play! This same concept can be used for enacting favorite songs.

Fairy Tale Play

In this theatre activity, your children will put a funny spin on a classic fairy tale. A fairy tale play is easy to perform because the audience recognizes the story. This indoor activity can be played for laughs or taken simply as a chance to enact a favorite tale.

Animal Doctor

The word veterinarian is a hard one for some preschoolers. But animal doctor works just fine. Make sure there are available bandages and other first aid items around the house. Grab a stuffed animal and suggest there is something wrong with it, "I think I just heard Brown Bear cry, I hope he's okay. Will you check?" Let your child play with the bandages, gauze and cold compresses to care for Brown Bear and other stuffed animals.

Paper Bag Puppets

Using paper lunch bags (an inexpensive necessity!), draw faces on the bottom of the bag of a dog, a cat, a bear, a lion, etc. and invite your child to do the same. You can glue items like yarn and feathers to make imaginative puppets. Then you and your child can create a puppet show for the rest of the family!



Playing Restaurant

Set up a playroom or family room as a restaurant or pizza parlor. Menus, a notebook, some pretend food and tables with chairs are great additions to a pretend restaurant. Have your children consider characters or roles that would be in a pizza parlor or restaurant and assign them to other members of the family. Take turns acting as a customer, waiter, cook or hostess.

Costume Fashion Shows

Find some old clothes around the house and make costumes out of them. You can then host a fashion show or help your children create a play of their own. Scarves and capes make fun costumes for children, and they are easy to use.

Gingerbread Man Book and Baking

Incorporating some baking with theater can be fun, too. Baking and then decorating gingerbread cookies is a good cold day activity. Children can decorate the gingerbread with different edible cookie decorations. Once the baking is done, take the time to read the story with your family and help them enact it. See if they can catch the gingerbread man!