

Yes Let's!

Early Years Project by Corn Exchange Newbury



WHY THIS PROJECT?

There has been extensive research into the benefits of the arts in Early Years settings telling us that, 'Using drama activities with young children puts them on the path of a creative journey and helps them to develop their social, cognitive and language skills. Drama is about our humanity in all its complexity, helping us to make sense of the world around us'-Hendy 2001. We know too that schools don't always have access to a high quality level of drama provision, depriving children of valuable learning and development opportunities.

This led to the design and creation of this project: the sessions are facilitated by experienced professional theatre and education practitioners and has been created in consultancy with Sarah Whatmore, Early Years Improvement Advisor / EY LACES Adviser for West Berkshire Council. The project is inspired by the characteristics of effective learning which link naturally to a drama-based approach to teaching.

"The project was a success from the start. The children were always engaged. Every session was packed with short activities that were manageable for all and at times I was impressed with how much they could do in an hour"

Class Teacher, Brimpton Primary School

“The shy children have really come out of their shells”

Class Teacher, Lambourn Primary School

“The project is fantastic! All the children have loved being a part of it and have taken great pride in what they achieved”

Class Teacher, Bucklebury Primary School

THE PROJECT AIMS TO:

- Allow pupils to explore the EYFS areas of learning and development through the in depth exploration of a specific topic (chosen in collaboration with the school)
- Develop skills around basic drama practices such as speaking aloud in front of a group, teamwork, problem solving and working independently.
- To create a performance piece that can be shared with parents and / or the rest of the school
- Develop drama skills in the lead teacher
- Allow lead teacher time to observe their class working

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The project consists of **6 x 60 minute sessions**, all exploring one theme but and learning other skills through and via that theme (e.g. ‘What makes me special?’ or ‘Space’). The sessions are broken down using the EYFS key areas of learning and each session is practical, with the class learning through drama and play.

There are also **3 x 15 minute sessions** for the practitioner and the lead teacher to reflect on and discuss the project. These will be scheduled for the beginning middle and end of the project. These sessions are also a CPD opportunity, designed to help the teacher to feel more confident in using drama as a tool for engaging learning in the classroom.

WHAT HAPPENS AND WHEN?

First Stage:

- Secure place on project
- A member of our team will come and meet with you and your Headteacher
- We will work with you to pick your topic
- Schedule sessions

Second Stage:

- We will invoice you for the project (this will need to be paid ahead of the start date)
- We will deliver the project
- Project culminates with a celebratory performance at your school (scheduled for a time convenient for the school)

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Class Session 1: Sensory Storytelling

Introduction to the topic exploring pupils' thoughts and ideas through an interactive story or 'whoosh'. Incorporating songs, rhymes, actions, props and plenty of opportunities to join in.

Class Session 2 : Technology / Craft

The second session is a craft based task such as prop or mask making that ties directly to the story we have been looking at that can also be used in the retelling of the story.

Class Session 3: Maths and Numeracy

We will explore mathematical problems and themed games using the story as stimulus for their learning and understanding.

Class Session 4: Literacy and Oracy

The fourth session has a literacy focus and we will look at elements of the story in more detail (specific words, characters etc). Further investigation into the story and using the themes and plot lines to shape our learning and extend to writing where appropriate.

Class Session 5 & 6: Performance Creation

Using everything they have learnt and the props that they have made, they are now going to create, as a group, a short performance based on or around the theme / story they have been looking at. Exploring narrative, characterization and their investigations around the chosen topic. The practitioner will allow space for the children to input so as to shape the process and outcome.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Project cost: £250

This includes planning, delivery time, travel to your school and all of the resources required to deliver the sessions.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

To register your interest please contact:

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