

KINDERGARTEN THEATRE CURRICULUM

Grade Level Focus

We Use Our Imaginations in Drama

What is the difference between what is real and what is imaginary?

How do we use our imaginations when we pretend?

Developmental Stage

Children in kindergarten and first grade are still in Piaget's Pre-operational Stage (2-7 Years). They start to use symbols such as language to represent objects. For instance, the child understands the word "apple" although a real apple is not seen. However, the Pre-operational child still learns from concrete evidence while adults can learn in abstract way. The Pre-operational child is also unaware of another person's perspective. They exhibit egocentric thought and language.

Children in the pre-operational stage are still learning to distinguish fantasy from reality and are highly engaged in fantasy play. They can be observed organizing comprehension of their environment through role-playing.

Practices we use in drama activities:

- Learning rules for theatre games
- Choosing roles to play
- Listening and responding to stories
- Observing outside themselves
- Predicting and inferring
- Improving gross motor skills
- Exploring differences between reality and fantasy through imaginary journeys