

Suggested Drama Home Learning Activities

Voice Projection

Find three teddies or cushions and place one of them a metre away from you, the second one at the other end of your room or garden and the third one in between. Now look directly at the first item and say your full name and your favourite animal. Now look at the middle item and say the exact same things. Would you speak with the same volume? No as the "person" is further away. Now address the third item - you should project your voice as loud as you can. You were really acting in a play just then - reaching the first three rows, the middle rows, and the back rows of the theatre.

Guess the mime (What's my job?)

One person starts by announcing "What's my job?" and begins to mime his/her job - a chef, teacher, mechanic, doctor, window cleaner, astronaut, TV presenter or whatever. On finishing the mime he asks again "What's my job?" and the others guess. If the mime is really good they will get it right. No-one is allowed to guess until "What's my job?" is said for the second time. Then someone else has a turn. You could also try "What's my animal?", "What's my sport?", "What's my musical instrument?" and "What's my circus character?"

Using a prop

Take a prop - for example a wooden spoon or anything else that is safe to use. You are going to use this as any object other than a wooden spoon. It could be a lollipop, a tennis racket, a frying pan, a mirror, a shovel or a sword. Use your imagination to think up more and more unlikely uses for your prop. Make sure you do a well-presented mime to illustrate what you have thought of.

Characters and Emotions

You need some slips of paper on to which you or a member of your household can write some adjectives describing emotions e.g. kind, cruel, aggressive, sensitive, inquisitive, proud, greedy, shy, nervous, stupid, friendly, careless, clumsy, mad, old, peculiar, bad-tempered, worried, angry, happy, enthusiastic, sad, overworked etc. Put them in a container and each person draws a slip out and has to be a character that could be described by the word on the slip of paper. For example, if they have drawn 'kind', they become a kind person. To start with work as a one-line character, just giving one sentence or phrase of what that person might do and say. Later, you can extend it, through the use of 'Action' and 'Cut', to longer pieces.

The Shoes that have a Life of their Own

Take a pair of shoes and place them in the middle of the floor. "These shoes are magic shoes; when someone puts them on the magic begins - the shoes have a life of their own; they take over and control the movement of your feet." Put on the shoes and say what you are going to do e.g. I better go on my daily walk, but as soon as you put them on they take over. Perhaps by making you do a silly walk or twirl about; or do star jumps; scissor jumps; tap dance; ballet dance or anything else you can think of. Escape from the shoes by throwing them off or shout Freeze to make the magic wear off.

Improvised Play

The Lift

Draw a chalked rectangle (if outside) or mark out with scarfs or something (about two metres by one and a half metres) on the ground to represent the lift. Two or three members of your household enter the lift together. Your destination is the top floor of a block of flats. One presses the button and the lift starts - but suddenly, on a given signal, the lift gets stuck. Can you let the situation develop naturally by acting out what you all would say and do. Decide what signal could be used to show lift has started again.