

Child's Play Touring Theatre

Residency

After School Residency: Kids put it On the Page and On the Stage!



Child's Play is recognized as one of the leading arts-in-education resources, a position we have earned through the uniqueness of our performance material, our high artistic standards and the integrated nature of our educational programs. We are strongly committed to excellence in arts and education.

Each School is Unique – Each Residency is Unique

The invention and ongoing evolution of our programs is derived substantially from our own experiences of four decades of providing arts-in-education programming to schools. It is an inherent component of our work to listen to both teachers and students – to understand where they are coming from, and on what needs and requirements we can work with them to fulfill. Recognizing the importance of being responsive to the needs of the school to provide experiences that will be most useful to teachers and students, we specifically design our programs to be integrated into each school's curriculum. Planning sessions with each school enable us to get an early gauge of the unique culture of the given school.



A Collaborative Spirit

When we are in residence, students take the stage and experience the creative process of developing their stories and poems into a complete production. The program has a profound effect on the many children who experience the complexities of being an ensemble member. In addition to learning about theatre, the young actors find a new sense of self-esteem and develop a



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cooperative team spirit. This team spirit shines through, not only in building ensemble with the students, but by expanding the ensemble to include teachers and the community. Our residencies would not be what they are without the collaboration of art and music programs, classroom teachers, and parents and community members who volunteer their time to help with the show.

What we offer:

- School-Wide Activities including: Writing Workshop “Informances” and Classroom Visits.
- Teacher In-Service Workshops: Working with faculty to integrate drama into other realms of classroom teaching.
- Core Group Work including: Workshops in improvisation, writing, adaptation, design and ensemble building.
- Themes: Child's Play will formulate curriculum around specific school themes.
- Faculty Collaboration: Involving art and music integration.
- Culminating Event: A World Premiere show, complete with sets, props, costumes and music.

Curriculum Sample

The following is a sample breakdown of a ten-session residency. Child's Play also has curriculum from as little as five days, to as many as 40 visits spread out over several months. Our residency is flexible, but most importantly – we don't just focus on the end result – we focus on the process, spending time on writing, adapting and creating ALL the elements of our Final Show.

Session One: Tools of the Actor—Voice, Body and Mind

Child's Play teaching artists introduce the tools of the actor through group games and tongue twisters. Students learn articulation, projection, and how to use physical action to portray emotion. Students build on this knowledge when creating an acting ensemble. Students also explore improvisational techniques through group games and role-play.

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Session Two: Introduction to Writing and Developing Characters.

Students are introduced to a writing technique, the 'idea box', to generate Who and Where ideas for story characters and locations. They write a short story using their idea box using as many describe words as they wish. The areas of Wants, But and So..(lution) are then added to the 'idea box' to create character motivation, internal conflict, subplot, and resolutions for their stories.

Session Three: Conflict Resolution and Problem Solving

Through group activities students explore conflict resolution skills. They improvise a selected group 'idea box.' Students work together to develop different, non-violent/ confrontational strategies for characters to get what they want.

Session Four: Introducing the Poetry Formula

Using a writing formula that combines the five 'W's and the five senses students create original poetry. Volunteers read their poetry aloud. In small groups, students stage a poem.

Session Five: Talent Show/Auditions

After vocal and physical warm-ups to relax the students, teaching artists interview each student and give them several lines to perform. Applause is encouraged after each audition. After solo auditions, students audition with each other in a scene. The talent show is a great way for students to share their skills and break the ice of performing jitters.

Session Six: Casting/Blocking

Teaching artists direct the students through group work and the students rehearse the blocking.

Session Seven: Music Rehearsals with Musician

Students choose a percussion instrument and experiment incorporating music into their stories. They work together to coordinate their rhythms into music and discuss where music should be used.

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Session Eight: Production Rehearsals and Art Fundamentals

Students discuss symbolism, realism, stereotypes, and mood, and apply these to the showcase of the group's stories. They then sketch a design depicting the performance before painting it onto muslin for a scenic backdrop.

Session Nine: Final Tech/Dress Rehearsal

All the details are worked through to ensure a fun performance runs smoothly .

Session Ten: Final Showcase

The group sees all the pieces come together in a World Premiere showcase. An award ceremony follows, where Certificates of Creativity are awarded to all participants.

**For more information, call at our Office 773-235-8911 -
Cell 773-294-7541 or visit our booking page.**