

## Participatory Drama

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## Types of Participatory Drama

- Dramatic Songs
- Dramatic games
- Story drama
- Puppets
- Role Play

## Participatory Drama: Dramatic Songs

- **Definition:** Songs that are accompanied by movements that dramatize the words
  - **Finger Play:** Nursery rhyme with coordinated hand movements to help “act” the rhyme out
    - **Example:** Itsy Bitsy Spider
  - Songs that are dramatized by gross movements
    - **Example:** Wheels on the Bus
- **Movement Songs/Action Songs:** Songs that have an accompanying action
  - *Father Abraham had many sons*
  - These aren't *technically* dramatic songs because children do not use their imagination, but they are valuable too



## Participatory Drama: Dramatic Songs

- **Uses in Early Childhood Education**
  - Teach language
  - Fine and Gross motor skills
  - Re-focus children's attention on the lesson
  - Fill extra time
  - Develop children's creativity
- **Teacher's Roles:**
  - Create a bank of dramatic songs
  - Lead and model the Dramatic Song

## Participatory Drama: Dramatic Games

- **Definition:** A physical activity where children use their imagination to become something different
- **Example:** Octopus

## Participatory Drama: Dramatic Games

- **Uses in Early Childhood Education**
  - Fun physical exercise during break time
  - Practice social and character skills
  - Develop children's creativity
- **Teacher's Role**
  - Explain the rules of the game
  - Referee the game to ensure children follow the rules
  - Demonstrate when needed

## Participatory Drama: Story Drama

- **Definition:** Children use their imagination to act out a story.
- **Two types:**
  - **Story Drama During Reading:** Children perform actions during the story
    - **Example:** *Going on a Bear Hunt*
    - Children can pretend to be animals in stories about animals
  - **Story Drama After Reading:** Children dramatize a story after it has been read/told in class
    - **Example:** *The Farmer and His Sons* (Aesop's Fable)

## Participatory Drama: Story Drama

- **Using Story Drama**
  - Children should know the story well to improve their ability to participate
    - Tell/read a story 2 or 3 times before a story drama
- **Teacher's Role**
  - **Story Drama During Reading**
    - Introduce the Story
    - Teach children the actions before reading
    - Prompt children to do the actions when reading
  - **Story Drama After Reading**
    - Ask questions to guide children as they plan the drama
      - Who are the characters in the story? Who will be each of the characters?
      - Where does the story take place (setting)? Is there anything we can do to decorate the classroom like that?
      - What happens at the beginning of the story? How can you act that out?
      - What happens next? What will you do?

## Participatory Drama: Story Drama

- **Uses in Early Childhood Education**
  - Improve English language skills
  - Improve comprehension (understanding)
  - Improve physical development

## Participatory Drama: Puppets

- **Definition:** Moveable model of a character controlled by another person
- Puppets can be used in ECE by:
  - **Children's Puppet Drama:** Children dramatize through use of puppets
  - **Teacher's Puppet Drama:** Teacher illustrates a story or a key lesson through a puppet drama
  - **Conventional Puppets:** A puppet troupe presents a drama to the class
- Puppets can be:
  - Purchased commercially
  - Made by teacher/parent
  - Made by the children

## Participatory Drama: Puppets

- **Types of Puppets**
  - **Finger Puppets**
    - Trace finger on cloth, make the puppet, and sew/glue together
    - Card finger puppets
  - **Hand Puppets**
    - Brown bags
    - Socks
    - Folded Card
  - **Stick Puppets**
    - Draw the character on thick paper, old files, etc.
    - Attach the character to a stick, straw, spoon, etc.



## Participatory Drama: Puppets

- **Uses in Early Childhood Education**
  - Children develop their creativity by making puppets or dramatizing with puppets
  - Teach a range of skills – social, character, health, religious, etc.
  - Capture children's attention
  - Help transition to a new activity
  - Help a teacher read/tell a story
  - Making puppets improves fine motor skills



## Participatory Drama: Puppets

- **Teacher's Role**

- Provide puppets or material for making puppets
- Lead a puppet drama (teacher's puppet drama)
- Discuss children's puppet play

## Participatory Drama: Role Play

- **Definition:** Children dramatize a specific situation by imagining they are in a specific role in a specific situation. It may include:

- Child being in a role they are not normally in (see a situation from another's perspective)
- Child being themselves in a situation they have never been in before

- **Uses in Early Childhood Education**

- Help children practice skills needed for certain situations
- Foster empathy with others
- Improves conflict management

## Participatory Drama: Role Play

- **Teacher's Role**

- Describe the situation
- Assign children to roles (oftentimes assigning roles to a child that they may not normally take)
- Provide coaching during the role-play
- Discuss the role-play after
- Sometimes the role play (with either similar or different characters) can be completed again