



# Your Christmas Theatre Production... Without the Drama!

Let us take away the stress of this year's Christmas production. Each bubble will create their own Christmas masterpiece and record it for their parent's enjoyment.

We've put a number of measures in place to ensure your children's safety is top priority, without compromising on fun and active learning. We've got 20 years' experience behind us, so we thought it would be right to share our expertise and strategies to help children tap into their imagination. Each all-inclusive session is designed to inspire young people to grow their arts and leadership talents, as well as developing their creativity.

Year Group	Christmas Production	Time to Produce
1	The Nativity Through Image and Song An emotive version of the Nativity using well known Christmas Carols.	5 hours
2	Winter Poem Recital Children learn sections of a poem which is recited chorally.	4 hours
3	Funny Letters to Santa Written & performed by the children.	4 hours
4	<b>5 Minute Winter Plays</b> Written & performed by the children.	6-7 hours
5	The 12 Days of the Holiday  The children's own version of the 12 Days of Christmas written & performed by themselves.	5 hours
6	A Christmas Carol in Under 20 Minutes A shortened version of A Christmas Carol written & performed by the children.	6 hours



# Year 1 - The Nativity Through Images & Song Lesson 1 - Introduce the story of the Nativity - Duration: 60 minutes

## Through Drama Children Will Learn:

#### English:

- Participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say.
- Explain clearly their understanding of what is read to them.

## **Drama Learning Outcomes:**

#### A Competent Learner Will:

- Work in small groups for short periods of time.
- Make simple choices.

#### An Engaged Learner Will:

 Watch, listen and respond to stories and other children's work.

#### **Resources:**

- The Nativity Story YouTube clip.
- Song links to music and words for the children to take home and learn.
- Costumes and props are discretionary for the school. If they would like to make crowns for the wise men, have head coverings for Mary & Joseph and the shepherds and halos for the angels etc, then they can do so over the coming hours/ weeks.

#### **Key Words:**

- Drama
- Nativity
- Story
- Christmas
- Still image
- Freeze
- Statue

#### **Introductory Activity:**

Introduce Drama and how it works. Discuss the expectations of the children over the next few weeks.

Play 'Up, down, freeze'. The children move around the space in any direction. When the AP calls 'Up' they should stop and reach up as high as they can. 'Down' they should stop and get as low as they can. 'Freeze' stand still like a statue.

#### **Differentiation:**

- Understand some children may not celebrate Christmas.
- Support provided for reading activities.
- Shy children are encouraged to speak and participate but they can opt out.

#### **Assessment:**

- Are the children able to hold their body still for a period of time?
- Do the children understand the main events in the Nativity story?
- Are the children able to use their imagination to create an image?

#### **Main Teaching Activity:**

Watch the video of the Nativity with the children: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/">https://www.youtube.com/</a> watch?v=FrTFAZPQxpE. Discuss the main points of the story with the children and answer any questions (Questions like, is Jesus really the son of God? Or is God real? Just answer, "This is what Christians believe but other religions don't" If questions persist, direct them to have a chat with their parents and then move on).

Introduce the idea of still image. This is where the children make pictures together like a storybook, except they use their bodies. Their pictures can't move or talk, just like in a storybook. Put the children in to 6 groups. Ask each group to make a still image of a family eating dinner together. What would it look like? Where would people be positioned? What would they be doing? AP count down 3,2,1 freeze! Upon the word 'freeze' the children should stay in position completely frozen. Look at the images and discuss key elements of each one (holding cutlery, mouths full of food, people smiling etc). Repeat the activity with a new scenario. This time ask the children to create a still image of being at the beach. Again, give them a countdown to freeze. Discuss each image and what is happening. The third and final scenario is playing in the snow. Countdown to freeze and then discuss each one

Assign each of the groups one of the following scenes from the Nativity. Together they should create a still image which shows this scene. They will need to decide who is going to be which character and how they can position their bodies to show what is happening in the scene:

1) Ride to Bethlehem on the donkey. 2) No room at the Inn. 3) Mary and Joseph with the baby in the manger. 4) Shepherds in the field. 5) The 3 Wise men. 6) Angels & Mary and Joseph in the stable.

#### **Plenary:**

Look at the images each group has created.

Ask them now to add in 1 movement for one of the characters in their image.

What effect does it have when we add in the movement?

Give the groups the words to the Christmas Carols now. They will need time to practise them at home.