



Lesson: Classic Concentration

Ages: 4th and 5th grade

Supplies needed: Three Chairs.

Project Intro: This lesson will help children practice the skill of staying focused, and understand how staying “in character” and serving the story is the most important thing to remember on stage.

Materials Reference: Teaching Drama, The Essential Handbook (beatbybeat Press)

Project steps:

Warm-Up Activities:

- **Group Count**
 - Ask the children and other family members participating to stand in a circle and look at the floor.
 - The goal is for the group to count from 1 to 10.
 - Any participant will start by saying “1”.
 - Any other participant will continue by saying “2” and so on until you reach “10”.
 - If any two participants say a number at the same time the group must start again at “1”.

- **Pass the Sound**

- Staying standing in a circle, everyone will pass a sound around. Start by passing a “whoosh” around the circle. This is done by saying “whoosh!” and throwing your hands toward the person next to you.
- After it goes around a couple times stop the “Whoosh!” and send a “Bing!” going the opposite way, using a different hand gesture.
- Now tell the participants they need to put their focus caps on, because you’re going to send a “Whoosh!” going one direction, then a “Bing!” going the opposite direction. At some point they of course will overlap over one student so that student needs to be prepared.
- Try this out a few times.
- If they’re up for it, try adding in a 3rd layer, “Ooga!”

Drama Activity:

- **3-Way Conversation**

- Get three chairs and place them in a row.
- Ask for three participants to sit in each chair.
- The participants on the left and right are to think of conversations they will have with the player in the middle.
- When you say “action”, it is the goal of the middle player to be able to keep two conversations going at the same time, with the players to his left and right. The outside participants should only acknowledge the middle participant.
- When you say “shift”, the participant on the right should exit while the other two participants shift over. A new player should take the spot to the left and the activity begins again.

Drama Vocabulary:

Gesture – a form of non-verbal communication in which visible bodily actions communicate particular messages, either in place of speech or together and in parallel with spoken words. Gestures include movement of the hands, face, or other parts of the body.