



Lesson: Keep a Straight Face

Ages: 4th and 5th grade

Supplies needed: No supplies needed.

Project Intro: This lesson helps children explore the idea of objectives and tactics, and how they are crucial to acting.

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

Project steps:

Warm-Up Activity:

- **Smile!**
 - Get enough chairs for each child and other family member participating and place them in a circle, facing inward, with one in the middle of the circle.
 - Ask for one volunteer to sit in the middle and the rest to sit around the circle.
 - Explain that the goal of the person in the middle is to make one of the participants in the circle smile.
 - They can use any method they want without touching anyone.
 - If the person in the middle gets another participant to smile, that participant trades places and the game continues.

- The objective of the person in the middle is to get someone to smile, the objective of all the players sitting is to keep a straight face.

Drama Activity:

- **Sausage**

- Divide the participants into two groups – Group A and Group B.
- Have Group A form a single file line to the right, and Group B form a single file line to the left.
- One person from Group A and Group B will walk toward the center.
- “A” will face “B” and ask him/her a question. No matter the question, “B” must keep a straight face and answer “sausage”.
- Then they will exit and a new person from Group A and Group B will walk toward the center.
 - **EXAMPLE:**
 - A: What’s that hanging from your ear? B: Sausage
 - A: What’s your sister’s name? B: Sausage
 - A: How old are you? B: Sausage
- After everyone has gone, select a few volunteers to go into the “hot seat” and ask him/her several rapid fire questions, in which each response should be “sausage” with a straight face. See if they can get through 8 questions in a row.

Drama Vocabulary:

Rapid Fire – a fast exchange of questions and answers