

THEATRE AND DRAMATIC PLAYS IN THE CLASSROOM  
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## Benefits of Using Theatre 1

1. Developing leadership qualities, including confidence to speak in public
2. Acquiring new/robust vocabulary
3. Having the opportunity to use diverse language registers
4. Improving pronunciation, enunciation and voice projection

## Benefits of Theatre 2

5. Getting to know better oneself and others
6. Strengthening community and solidarity
7. Discovering/fostering additional skills
8. Attracting parents to school
9. Developing a sense of cultural pride



## 1 Developing leadership qualities

It is never too early to develop confidence in children.

Theatre and dramatic games presented in fun, non-stressful ways, will help to overcome shyness and acquire confidence to be in front of a group.



## 2 Acquiring new/robust vocabulary

Plays and dramatic games will present opportunities to use new vocabulary.

Since the play already provides the language to be used children can use it with confidence.



## 3 Using New Language Registries

Children seldom have opportunities to use language which is not related to the home or school environments.

Plays and dramatic games will allow them to practice speaking in new circumstances including using the language registers usually reserved for formal settings.

## 4 Improving pronunciation and enunciation

Plays and dramatic games are very well suited to encourage children to speak clearly and to project their voices.



## 5 Getting to know oneself and others

Plays and dramatic games require understanding the feelings of characters. As we try to understand how a character feels, we must ask ourselves: "When do I feel that way?"

From there it will be easier to understand the feelings and emotions of others.

## 6 Strengthening community and solidarity

Plays and dramatic games need the collaboration of everyone.

Every student can have a role.

Everyone is necessary for the success of all.



## 7. Discovering/fostering additional skills [1]

Staging a play, no matter how simply, will allow the discovery and fostering of many talents, as the children cooperate in:

- Creating invitations and posters to advertise the play
- Securing permission to use an auditorium
- Inviting other classes

## Fostering additional skills [2]

- Creating the decoration
- Taking care of props
- Helping with costumes & make-up
- Managing lights and sound
- Greeting visitors, etc.



## 8 Attracting Parents to School

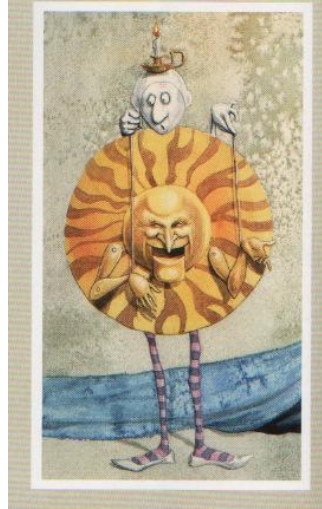
Few enticements could be better to attract parents to school than seeing their children perform.

Once the parents come for a play they can be provided with additional information about the school and its programs and/or engage in home-school interaction activities.

## 9 Developing a sense of cultural pride [1]

The stage offers relevance to those on it.

For language minority families it is important to see their language used on stage, recognizing its value.



## Developing a sense of cultural pride [2]

- The Hispanic culture has contributed great playwrights to world culture.
- Theatre both in literary and popular form has been essential to the Hispanic culture.
- Becoming aware of this contribution will be beneficial to the children and families.

## Multiple Forms of Theatre

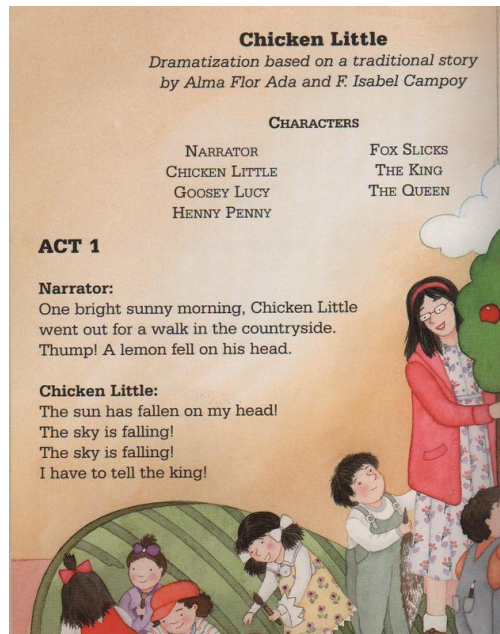
- Play written by a playwright
- Play created in the classroom
- Retelling of a well-known story either from:
  - a published script
  - a script created in the classroom
  - a spontaneous improvisation

## Turning a story into a play [1]

- Invite children to retell a well-known story.
- Write the characters on a chart paper as the children identify them.
- Ask: “Who speaks first?” “What does he/she say?”
- Write name of character and his/her words.

## Turning a story into a play [2]

- Continue asking: “Who appears now?” “What does s/he say?”
- Read with the children what they have said so far.
- Ask if anything is missing.
- Continue until they have completed the story.
- It will be a very special play to perform.



## Puertas al Sol /Gateways to the Sun



Los tres  
 cabritillos  
 El borreguito  
 que quería  
 ser buitre  
 Pedro Pollito



**Regalos de  
Navidad**  
**La bicicleta de  
Cheta**  
**Gallinita dorada**  
A traditional tale  
Two realistic plays

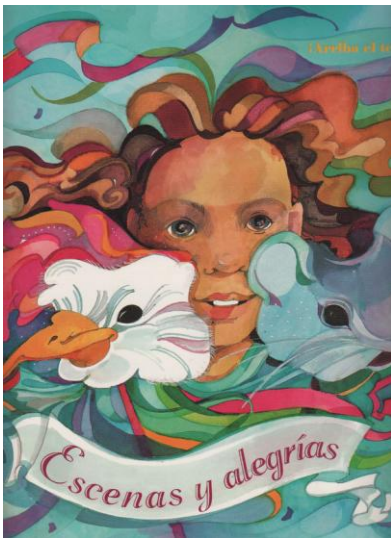


**Puertas al sol/Gateways to the Sun**



- Los tres osos
- La gallinita roja
- Caperucita roja

Textos muy breves  
para los más pequeños

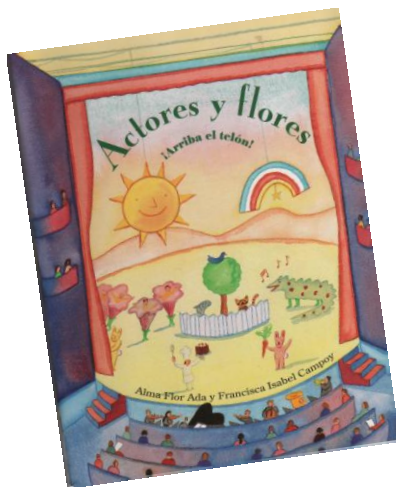


- La Cucarachita  
Martina
- El ratón Pérez
- Pedro Pollito
- Amigos

Some plays in verse,  
others in prose.

- **Los tres cerditos**
- **El gallo de boda**
- **El sol**

Dos cuentos tradicionales y un juego dramático.



Obras de distintos autores:

- **La cuchara de palo**
- **La mata de guayabas**
- **La enfermedad de Pepe**
- **El árbol**
- **Tamarindo el pastelero**
- **Los colores**

## Anthologies for older students



## Our thanks to you...

For having chosen the best  
an educator

For your commitment to your  
students and their families

For recognizing the power of  
languages and the need  
that children maintain the  
language that will allow parents to  
continue supporting them.

