

DEAL Strategies

Defining the Space

WHAT IS IT?

The construction of an imaginary location to use in the drama.

Transforming the real environment into an imagined one.

HOW IS IT USED?

Working together with the children you are to transform the real space into the imagined world of the drama, using whatever resources are available to them e.g. fabric to indicate a river, pots, pans, building boxes stacked for a tower, a hoop as the tunnel entrance. Build den structures. Label areas in the 'new' environment.

Circle Packing

WHAT IS IT?

A collective packing activity for a character or group of characters who are embarking on a journey.

HOW IS IT USED?

There are two ways of doing using this strategy:

- Sitting in a circle, ask the children to think of what they may put in a bag if they were going on a particular journey such as a pirate on a beach of Little Red Riding Hood going to Grandma's. Each child in turn places their item in to a centrally placed bag, basket or rucksack while saying what they are packing and why.
- To simplify this you may place the items already in the bag and pull them out one at a time and explore each item so the children are immersed on the journey.

Role on the Wall

WHAT IS IT?

A large, visual and written representation of a character.

HOW IS IT USED?

Draw the outline of a character on a large piece of paper (you could draw round one of the children). Through questioning establish facts and information about the character and write these around the outside of the figure; on the inside write the character's thoughts and feelings.

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Occupational Mime

WHAT IS IT?

The enactment of tasks, whilst in role, relating to a specific job or task.

HOW IS IT USED?

- Children mime repetitive tasks that relate directly to the role they are playing e.g. digging, carrying, building, cooking, sowing seeds, looking for clues, etc.
- You could read a book with your child and act out what the different characters do, such as a bird flapping his wings, a farmer digging with his spade.

Reading the Picture

WHAT IS IT?

A collective, oral exploration of a photograph or image.

HOW IS IT USED?

- The children look at a picture or image and are asked to verbalise their reading of the picture by taking it in turns to complete the following sentences: 'I can see? I can hear? I can smell? I can taste? I can touch? I feel?' You can even add the sentence 'I wonder?' This inspires enquiry about the context of the drama. Record outcomes on a working wall, for all to refer to.
- Symbols or pictures could be created to support the children's answers when they respond to the above questions.