

## Getting Started

### *Using Drama in the Classroom*

**Don't worry if you haven't used much drama in the classroom. You don't need to be an expert to teach WebPlay – the resources will give you all the support you need. In this section you will find tips on structuring practical drama sessions.**

Teaching Drama in the classroom can be a rewarding experience – yet it can also easily become chaotic. Drama lessons need to be structured to ensure that the children have clear boundaries in which to work. The lesson needs to be differentiated from 'play' as the borders can easily be blurred at this age. Use this structure when planning any practical drama session:

<b>The Beginning</b>	<b>Agreement</b>	It is important that you set ground rules, and that the children understand <i>why</i> these rules have been set. You can then refer back to these to re-focus a group.
	<b>Warm Up</b>	Warm Ups can be used to re-energise, refocus, prepare the body physically and vocally. Always make clear the purpose of the warm up – it is not just a game.
	<b>Focus</b>	It is important that you establish a focus for the session and ensure that all the children have a base of knowledge.
<b>The Middle</b>	<b>Development</b>	Use basic drama structures to develop the focus of the session. For example, start with groups creating a still image that crystallises or explores the focus of the lesson. You can develop the drama by using as many drama structures as you want.
	<b>Creation</b>	Building on the development work you have done with the class, ask them to create a longer or finished piece of drama.
	<b>Performance</b>	It is always important to children that they perform what they have created. This does not have to be in full.
<b>The End</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	It is vitally important that every session closes with a reflection of what the children have done. Check their learning and ensure that they understand the purpose of what they have done to help them differentiate it from play.
	<b>Relaxation</b>	After a particularly lively session you may need to calm the children down. Evaluation will help to refocus a class, but you may need to lead a relaxation session as well.

## Want to know more?

### *Useful links:*

To find out more about WebPlay or to download our free drama resources, including a set of videos that show workshop leaders demonstrating drama techniques go to: -

[www.webplay.org](http://www.webplay.org)

[http://www.webplay.org/workshop\\_videos.php](http://www.webplay.org/workshop_videos.php)

[http://www.webplay.org/teacher\\_lesson\\_plans.php](http://www.webplay.org/teacher_lesson_plans.php)

[http://www.webplay.org/teacher\\_curriculum.php](http://www.webplay.org/teacher_curriculum.php)