



**92NY Theater
for Young
Audiences**

Presented by The Diamond Family




Curriculum Guide

The fun doesn't have to stop at the theater. Keep the fun going and continue the experience of *What Do You Do With an Idea?* in the classroom or at home!

***What Do You Do With an Idea?* is not only a beloved children’s book, but has since been adapted into a variety of artistic mediums, including this magical production by 92NY’s Theater for Young Audiences. This curriculum guide is designed in connection with their production of *What Do You Do With an Idea?*. The activities are meant to engage children (primarily PreK-1st Grade) in creative and imaginative play. These activities can be done in your classroom, or with your little one at home.**

“Play is the highest form of research”
- Albert Einstein



Everything that has ever been invented, engineered, manufactured, or created, has required some amount of creativity and imagination. In fact, creativity is one of the must-need skills in today’s workforce. Developing a creative mindset begins as early as infancy, and is best learned through play. Play allows students to employ abstract thinking, higher level functioning and requires them to ask “what if..?” It provides students the freedom to take risks and make mistakes. The activities in this guide are designed to be play-based with a focus on artistic, creative and imaginative play.

This is a.... is an artistic, open-ended activity that allows students to create anything that comes to mind with various materials you provide. **Dance Action Shuffle** and **Bring On the Drama** taps into creative and dramatic movement.

Sandwiches for Your Idea! allows students to think creatively in the kitchen, and taste the results of their creations. And so much more!

As you go through this guide, keep in mind that these activities are focused more on the active, creative process than developing an end product. Like the Idea in Yamada’s story, children’s ideas and creativity must be nourished and cared for. As you do these activities, give students ample time for their ideas to incubate. Be willing to be messy and noisy, but also silent and still. Some students may work more quietly than others, as they may process ideas and directions differently and that is okay. When it comes to the open-ended possibilities of creative and imaginative play, be sure that the children’s agenda is the most important.

**“Creativity is inventing, experimenting,
growing, taking risks,
breaking rules, making mistakes,
and having fun.”**

- Mary Lou Cook

The hidden benefits of this curriculum guide include:

- 🏰 Fostering self-esteem and confidence
- 🏰 Developing communication skills
- 🏰 Building collaborative skills
- 🏰 Advancing problem-solving skills
- 🏰 Opportunities for students to take risks
- 🏰 Engaging in abstract thinking
- 🏰 Gross motor skill development
- 🏰 Fine motor skill development
- 🏰 Linguistic skill development

**“Creativity is contagious -
pass it on.”**

- Albert Einstein

BRIGHT IDEA CROWNS

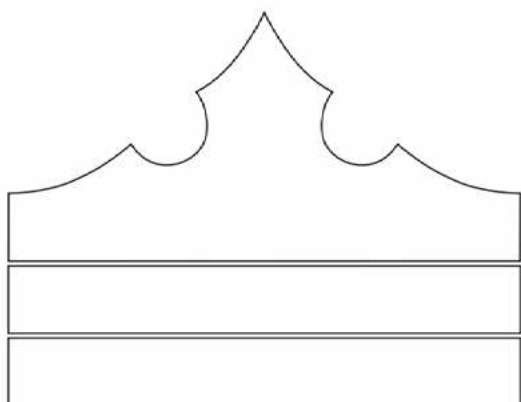
PreK - Kindergarten

Everyone has bright and creative ideas, even if we don't know it! Get creative with making your own Idea Crowns! Print out both crown templates, enough for each student to have one. Pass out art supplies for students to

color and design their crowns with. Supplies can include, but are not limited to: crayons, colored pencils, markers, finger paints, diamond stickers, scratch and sniff stickers, and stencils.

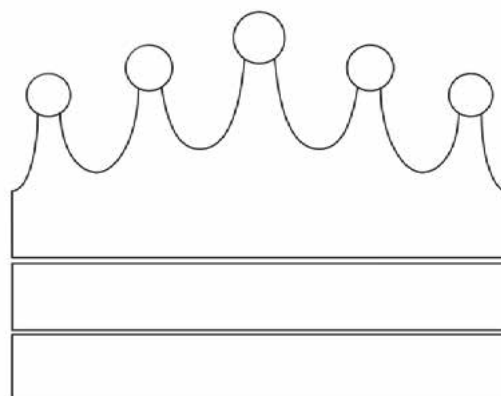
Crown Template #1

[Click for Template](#)



Crown Template #2

[Click for Template](#)



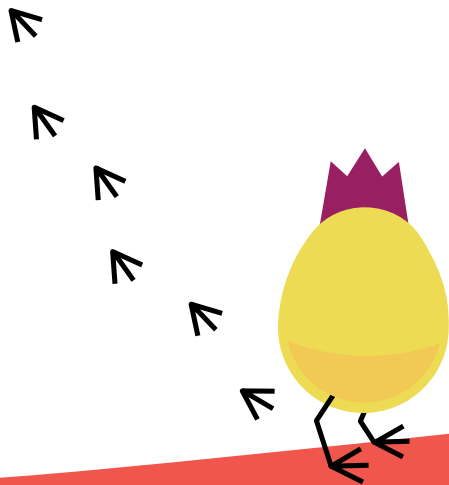
A HOUSE WITHOUT A ROOF

Kindergarten - 1st Grade

Kai gets the idea to build a house without a roof for Bright Idea, so Bright Idea can have a safe place to dream and look up at the stars. You can have fun building houses without roofs in your own classroom too!

Gather different materials to build a house i.e. Lincoln logs, cardboard, popsicle sticks, tape, stickers, wooden blocks, legos, magnatiles,

twigs, etc. Break students up into small groups. Instruct groups to work together to build a house without a roof. They can use any of the materials you provide (allowing for creativity and imaginations to work), but they have to work together, be kind, and share.



BRIGHT IDEA HANDSHAKE



1st Grade

It takes Kai a bit to accept Bright Idea as a friend, and when Kai does accept Bright Idea, they perform an elaborate friendship handshake. Of course, we can always handshake the old-fashioned way where we extend a hand, give a firm grasp and shake. But what if handshakes were more than that?

As the facilitator, pair students up with a partner and instruct them to create and develop a unique handshake (way to greet friends). This greeting could include high fives, fist bumps, dancing, claps, and so much more! You will need to demonstrate some possibilities to give students a visual representation of the activity they are about to do.

Once students have developed their handshakes, put students into groups of four (two sets of pairs), and instruct them to share their handshakes with each other. Once each group has shared with each other, mix up the groups again, but this time into groups of six (three sets of pairs). Make sure pairs are not with a pair they already shared with. Once each group has shared with each other, bring the whole class together, and invite pairs to share their handshakes with the whole class.

BRING ON THE DRAMA!

Kindergarten - 1st Grade

Engaging in creative play is essential to building a child's communication skills and cognitive development. Drama games can be a great way to encourage creative play and imagination. As you play the games, be mindful, as the facilitator, to foster your students creativity by supporting their acting choices rather than intrude on their acting choices. It is a popular choice for drama games to be done in a circle. At this age, rather than standing in a circle, make it a whole class activity on their rug spots. This will help alleviate any pressure from having all eyes on one student.

Dance Your Name

This game will be done altogether with the facilitator guiding students through the movement. Instruct students that we will all be spelling our friends first names in the air using our body parts. The body parts they will use will be in this order:

1st Letter: **Head**

2nd Letter: **Arm**

3rd Letter: **Hips**

4th Letter: **Knee**

5th Letter: **Foot**

(Repeat the order if the name is longer than 5 letters).

GAME OPTIONS:

Option 1: Use different character names from a book the class is reading instead of the names of students.

Option 2: Use this game as a way to practice new vocabulary the class is learning!

Option 3: Do the game in pairs (1st Grade).

Option 4: Have students volunteer to show the class how they would spell the name or vocabulary term with their body.

Check out this [link](#) from Beat by Beat for more instructions.

Slow Motion Emotion

This game is a twist on charades! In a bowl (or hat, cup, etc.), have slips of paper with different emotions written and pictured on them. Invite three students to come up to the “stage” and have one of them draw an emotion from the bowl. The student will show it to the other two (or you can whisper what

the emotion is to them individually). You, the facilitator, will count down from 10 to 1. As you do, the students on stage will gradually put their emotions into their bodies and faces. Have the audience (rest of the class) guess which emotion they chose. Reflect what gave away the emotion. Visit this [link](#) from Beat by Beat with further instruction.

DANCE ACTION SHUFFLE

Pre-K - 1st Grade

Help your students get moving with some creative movement! Use these [Movement Cards](#) to help guide them. Cut out each card and shuffle the deck. Have students pick four cards and place them together to make a movement sentence.

For example: WAVE + JUMP + TIPTOE + THROW. Encourage students to come up with different ways to perform the movement action or try using a new body part!

For example: Can you wave with your knee instead of your hand? Once you have established what each movement is, practice doing the movement sentence altogether. Try doing it with some music! Can you do it

in reverse order? How about really small? Or really big? Can you do the movement sentence as if you were a superhero or a bird or a princess or a _____?

Pick four more cards and create a second movement sentence. Once you have established what each of those movements are, practice doing the movement sentence altogether. Now, can you do the first movement sentence followed by the second movement sentence?

Get your students ideas! Ask students to think of their own movement action to add to the deck.

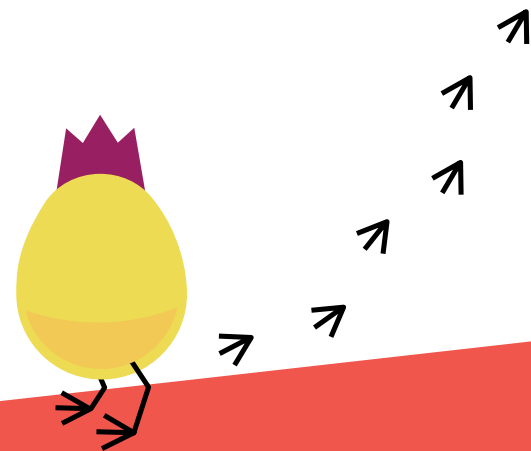
FREEZE DANCE TWIST

All Ages

This is a twist on the classic ... Freeze Dance. When you play the music, students dance freely in the space. Be sure to identify the space in which they are allowed to dance and any safety measures they should be mindful of (ie no touching our friends etc.). When you stop the music, prompt students to freeze in a:

Add more flavor to this twist by adding props: scarves, feather boas, hats, fabric (could become a cape!), etc.

- 👑 Round pose
- 👑 Straight/angular pose
- 👑 A high level pose
- 👑 A medium level pose
- 👑 A low level pose
- 👑 A specific emotion
- 👑 A small pose
- 👑 A big pose
- 👑 Pose like a book character



IMAGINATIVE PLAY

Pre-K - Kindergarten

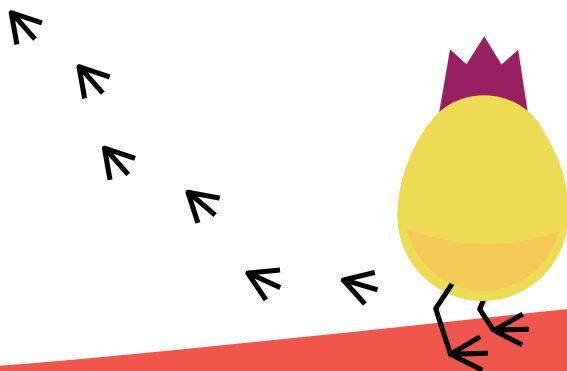
Imaginative Play is time for students to fully engage with their own imaginations. As the facilitator, you provide materials, but the rest is up to their brilliant imaginations. Set up sections, or stations, in your classroom to help group students up. Each station should have either all the same materials, or very different materials. Materials could include, but are not limited to:

- cardboard boxes,
- rolls of old wrapping paper,
- pieces of fabric,
- party hats,
- musical instruments,
- puppets,
- blocks,
- crowns,

- pinecones,
- feathers,
- stuffed animals,
- play scarves,
- sand bags/bean bags, etc.

The list is endless! Describe the materials available at each station to the students. Depending on your class, you can let the students self-select the station they would like to go to, or you can decide who goes where.

Allow students ample time to engage and participate in imaginative play. Have fun supporting the imaginative play by joining the adventure – but let the students direct and guide the play.



THIS IS A.....

Pre-K - 1st Grade

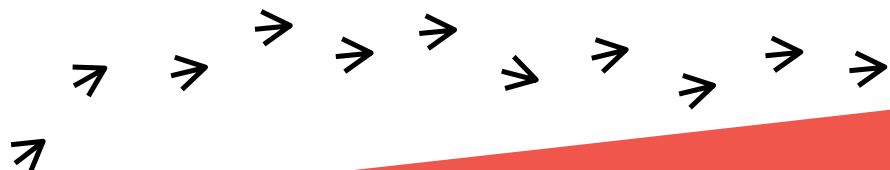
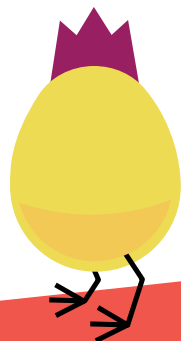
Spark your students' creativity with an open-ended art project. Provide students with a variety of materials and allow them to create whatever comes to mind.

Limitations breed creativity, so keeping this in mind, provide students with a variety of 4-5 materials. Materials can include, but are not limited to:

- sticks,
- leaves,
- cotton balls,
- pinecones,
- shells,
- paper scraps,
- newspapers,
- buttons,
- beads,
- recycled materials, etc.

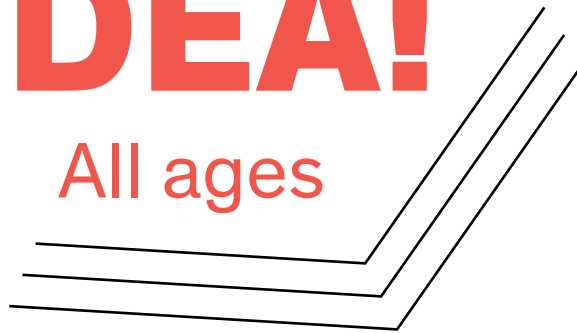
Provide students with glue, tape, puddy, or an adhesive of choice for those who would like to stick items together.

Give students a theme (New York City, for example) and inform them they have a set amount of time (insert a preferred time – no less than 15 minutes) to create something that represents New York City or reminds them of New York City. When the time is up, have students share their creations with those at their table. Afterward, select a few students who would like to share their creation with the whole class.

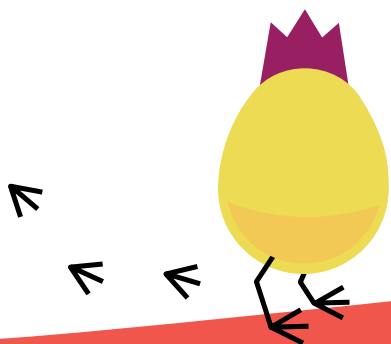


SANDWICHES FOR YOUR IDEA!

All ages



It is very important to feed and nourish an idea. If you don't, then it will be hard for the idea to grow! One can feed their ideas with many things, but Kai feeds Bright Idea sandwiches. Here are some creative, out-of-the-box sandwiches that will not only nourish your students' ideas, but nourish YOU as well! These can be made at home for your young one, or made together as a class lunch, or brought to a picnic, or...the possibilities are endless!



Strawberries & Cream Pancake Sandwich

Check out this yummy sandwich from **MOMables**. This is a great solution for any leftover pancakes you may have! You'll need: pancakes, whipped cream cheese, and strawberries. Feel free to substitute a different spread or fruit to fit your little one's tastes. Spread options include, but are not limited to:

- nutella
- peanut butter
- butter



Fruit options include, but are not limited to:

- peaches,
- bananas,
- blueberries
- raspberries

Click this [link](#) to see the full recipe!

Turkey Pepperoni Sandwich

Change up the traditional turkey & cheese sandwich with this delicious recipe from **MOMables**. You'll need:

- bread
- sliced deli turkey
- pepperoni slices

- sliced tomato
- lettuce
- mayo or hummus

Click this [link](#) for the full recipe!

Ham Cheese & Apple Sandwich

Shake up the traditional ham & cheese sandwich with a little sweet addition by **My Kids Lick the Bowl**. You'll need:

- sliced deli ham
- sliced cheese (Choose the kind your little one prefers. A classic favorite is cheddar.)

- sliced apples
- bread
- butter or margarine.

Click this [link](#) for the full instruction.

Peanut Butter & Banana

Add some fruit power to a classic PB sandwich by **My Kids Lick the Bowl**. Feel free to use a different nut spread to suit your child's tastes or allergies. For an allergen friendly option, use SunButter! You'll need: bread, peanut butter, sliced bananas, and a touch of cinnamon. Click this [link](#) for more detailed instruction.



Make lunch even yummier and more appealing with some creative sandwich designs! Use cookie cutters to turn sandwiches into some fun designs. Or cut the sandwich into small squares and stack

on a skewer. Let your little one choose their favorite design each day! Encourage them to come up with sandwich design ideas of their own!





92NY Theater for Young Audiences (TYA)

Presented by The Diamond Family

Kid-sized musicals. Giant-sized heart. The magic of musical theater in classic and original productions created especially for young audiences and their families — introducing a new generation to the joy of the art form in an intimate setting with unforgettable performances.

[92NY.org/TYA](https://www.92ny.org/TYA) | 212.415.5551

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