

Strategies for DMPA @home

Using Drama to move your body, engage your imagination and bring your story to life!

Creating a Dramatic Play from a Story

Older children may be ready to take their pretending to the next level. A Play! In this version, we don't use scripts, tickets or playbills but all of those are great ways to create with kids who are interested in taking their Play further! Instead, these suggestions focus on ways to organize children's understanding of a story to create opportunities to relive the book in their own words.

- **Choose a book:** Picture books with repeated phrases that students can chant are good choices for younger children. Stories with a clear storyline, strong characters, repeated dialogue, and enough characters or elements for everyone who'd like to participate is ideal. Since story dramatizations do not need a written script, students should be very familiar with the story and characters so that they can improvise a character's actions and speech.
- **Read the book aloud:** Kids can then plan and play a story dramatization. Ask the players to note the setting, characters, and sequence of events or plot, as well as the most exciting parts, the climax, the way the story ended (i.e., the resolution), mood and theme, and important phrases and characteristic things characters say.
- **Make a story chart:** An adult can record ideas about each of these on paper for younger students and to model planning a story dramatization older students may do this independently.

Plan for story dramatization

Setting (Where)	Characters (Who)	Sequence/Plot (When/What)
1.		
2.		
3.		

• **Make a story map:** Make a map of the room and place the settings needed for the story. Add the numbered sequence of events of the plot, with arrows showing the direction of the flow of the action.

• **Decide on the Cast:** Everyone can be engaged in each dramatization by using stories that having a character that there can be many of or having some children take turns being the audience.

A narrator can be added to read parts of the story.

• Debrief and discuss

Ask questions that emphasize the positive and make plans for the next playing of the story:

- What did you see that you liked?
- Who did something really interesting (or exciting, realistic, funny, etc.)?
- What can we do next time to make the play even better?

• **Play the story again:** A grown-up can take to play characters in the story so that all students have the opportunity to step into one of the roles.

