

Suggestions and guidelines for the Drama Theme Parties

For a successful party we suggest the following:

- Invite the children to come dressed up to suit the theme.
- Clear the space of distractions e.g. toys, food, balloons, swings etc., so as to maximize the children's involvement in the drama. Experience has shown that distractions can disrupt the flow of very excited children VERY easily.
- Adults are welcome to participate or to provide an attentive, participatory audience for the children. However, it is very distracting for the children if adults are talking in the party space. If you think best please provide a separate space for any adults present. They can be invited back in at the end of the drama to see a 'showing' of the children's work.
- For children under 5 it is essential that parents/adults present participate. As the children are so young their attention span can wander and they need an adult to bring them back to the action. The actor's responsibility is to the core of children who remain engaged and he/she cannot stop and go after strays as this would disrupt the flow. The participation of parents/carers enhances the experience for the very young who naturally emulate the behaviour to the adult they trust most.
- A list of siblings/cousins names would be useful so that everyone close to the birthday boy/girl is included as effectively as possible.
- Keep us informed of any changes to the theme or any additional ideas so we can incorporate it into the drama workshop prior to the party.

What to expect from LATC

- The actor will arrive approximately 15 minutes before the start of the agreed interaction time so that they can prepare themselves and meet you and the child.
- The actor comes as a facilitator for the children to act out the story. They are there to work with the children to engage them in an acting workshop.
- All our professional actors are Equity members, have CRB Enhanced Disclosures and have relevant qualifications and/or experience.
- We always work to the child's agenda. The actor will come prepared with suitable ideas for the scenario, however if you require something specific, please discuss in advance so we can accommodate your wishes e.g. requests for specific games, particular music, a favourite story etc.
- If adults are noisy an actor will courteously ask them to tone it down, join in or watch. It is for the children after all!
- We do not provide costumes, props, set, etc. However we are happy to facilitate prize based games for you e.g. Pass the Parcel etc.
- We can provide music if appropriate to the theme if arranged in advance.

Acting parties - general format

The professional actor guides the children to create and act out the story using the ideas forthcoming from the children themselves, combined with the requested texts. This is a creative role play process which allows the birthday boy/girl to feel special but which also involves the friends productively. Our emphasis is on the stimulating of the child's imagination.

Alternatively party and drama games can be facilitated as well as storytelling for younger children.

The children can work towards a little show at the end of the acting section of the party or they can purely role play and play games. We tailor the party to your child's requests and each party is different and specific to that child.

N.B. PARENTS! – PLEASE BE SURE THAT AN ACTING WORKSHOP IS REALLY WHAT YOUR CHILD WANTS (and their friends are willing to participate). BOOKING A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR TO FACILITATE A WORKSHOP WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING CAN BE FRUITLESS FOR THE CLIENT, THE ACTOR/S, LATC AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE BIRTHDAY BOY/GIRL.