

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD PLAYS

The Little Red Riding Hood plays may simply be used as readings of the story, or exploited further in live 'stage' performances. In either case, the plays provide children with a great opportunity to bring the story of Little Red Riding Hood to life with their own creative interpretations, besides providing them with the chance to practice their speaking skills and improve their pronunciation.

'Dramatizing means that the children become actively involved in a text. ...drama involves children at many levels, through their bodies, minds, emotions, language, and social interaction... By interpreting the words, the children make them their own. This also makes language memorable.' (Phillips, 6/7:1999)

Characters: Mum, Little Red Riding Hood (LRRH), Wolf, Grandma, Woodcutter

Resources: Plays-version 1, 2 or 3; mask or finger puppet templates; recording equipment

- a) Elicit what happens at the very beginning of the story. Which characters are involved? Where are they? What are they doing?
- b) Give your children a copy of Scene 1. The children take the part of Little Red Riding Hood, you are Mum. Read and practise your lines in turn. Now reverse roles. Encourage your children to take on the appropriate voices for each character and to do the appropriate actions and gestures. You may like to demonstrate with the masks or finger puppets.
- c) Next, ask your children to work in pairs and repeat their parts.
- d) What happens next in the story? Repeat stages a) - c) for each scene until all the children are familiar with each scene in the play.
- e) Your children may now like to practice the whole play in small groups of three, each taking a role. One child is Little Red Riding Hood, another the Wolf and the third is Mum, Grandma and the Woodcutter. The children reverse roles for a second and third reading.
- f) Finally, you may like to encourage your children to 'perform' for the class (and/or their parents). Where children may be a little reticent or hesitant to take a role in the play, they may like to be stage 'directors' or designers, or be in charge of sound effects or any recording equipment.
- g) To simulate a 'stage', you may like to decorate your classroom and assign different 'roles' to different areas - Mum's house, the wood (with pictures of animals and birds that live there), Grandma's cottage. You may need props such as a basket, cake and flowers.
- h) In addition to making their own masks, your children may like to dress in character, too. Little Red Riding Hood would have a red cloak with a hood (1½ metres of cheap red cloth would do); Grandma would have glasses, a nightcap, a nightdress and a stick;

Mum might have an apron; the Wolf might have a fake fur grey/brown coat; the Woodcutter might have a hat, a shirt, a waistcoat and a plastic axe. (Alternative masks for Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf may be found in JET Speaking Activities p.59/60, Mary Glasgow Magazines.)