

*Role Play Theatre** provides an enjoyable method for children to report their findings and results without having to rely on formal written reports. It is a way of presenting findings and results in an entertaining way that helps to ensure that children's opinions are shared and discussed.

OBJECTIVE

- To communicate children's findings, results and ideas to a mixed group of adults and children

time span

30 min to 1 hour preparation time
5 to 10 min performance time

product

A short role play based on the written results of an activity or tool which has been recently used

who facilitates

One or two development facilitators (DFs) can co-lead with child or youth facilitator

who participates

This activity is suitable for children 10 years old and above.

Form groups of up to eight children in each group.

This can include child and youth members of the starter group.

materials

- written results from the tool under focus
- props if necessary but try to keep it simple



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Introduction

This tool is particularly useful in mixed groups of children and adults, where children's voices are in danger of being marginalised. Children can report their findings in a memorable and clear way that ensures that their point of view is clearly shared with adult participants. This can also provide a catalyst for discussion on the topic children want to share.

Recommended process

- 1 Children choose which aspect of their results or findings they wish to communicate. It is important to focus on the key points, rather than try to report every element or aspect, or it will be difficult to produce the role play and the message will not be clear. The written results form the formal contribution by the children's group and contain more detail.

- 2 Decide on an example of the results or findings that can become a scenario.
- 3 Encourage children to use their own words to 'tell the story' of that scenario.
- 4 If necessary, ask children to draw 'story boards' of the story (not all children will need to do this).
- 5 Let children cast the roles and rehearse the role play. Allow the children to develop the play and bring it to life as they practise.
- 6 Have children perform the role play for the main group. Make sure that they are given a good introduction, and that the performance is done during an important part of the day, for example as the opening activity.

Other uses for this tool:

- This tool is also useful for validating findings. After children perform the role play, a facilitator can ask questions of the audience about the results. This can encourage discussion and validate findings. In addition, the discussion can provide insights and a deeper understanding about the situation surrounding the findings.
- This tool can also be used to encourage discussion about a specific issue. For example, children may want to communicate an issue that is affecting the well-being of children in the community. After the role play is performed, a facilitator can encourage dialogue on that topic by asking specific questions of the audience.
- This tool is also useful for adults when reporting findings and ideas in large community contexts, particularly when there are a large number of people to communicate with, or when there are mixed ages, education and literacy levels in the group.