

Hush!

Secondary School Drama Lesson

Aims

- Discuss the skills involved in mime and encourage your pupils to organise a sponsored HUSH! Day (sponsored silence) in school to help raise funds for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.
- Help your pupils understand why mime is not simply a stylised type of performance. It is also a good way to tackle difficult events – it encourages confidence, stimulates the imagination and helps to develop your communication skills which can help in all aspects of your life.
- By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to communicate various feelings and emotions non-verbally, and portray character attitude through physicality.

Class Discussion Mime and Communication

- Ask the class what the term 'mime' means - if you have a willing participant in the class then use them to give an example.
- Ask the class what the term 'communication' means and to describe different ways people communicate with one another throughout the world.



- Now share the following definition: 'Communication is simply the act of transferring information from one place to another, whether this be vocally (using voice), written (using printed or digital media such as books, magazines, websites or emails), visually (using logos, maps, charts or graphs) or non-verbally (using body language, gestures and the tone and pitch of voice)'¹
- Discuss the importance of being able to communicate effectively and in different ways - not just verbally.

Who are Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity and how do they help their young patients communicate?

Introduce Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity and what we do.

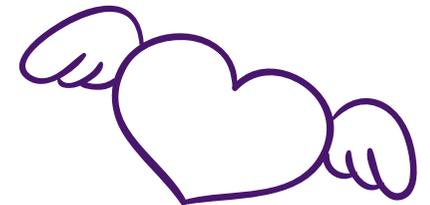
- With over 168,000 babies, children and young people passing through the hospital doors each year, it is important to ensure we are able to communicate effectively with our young patients and that they can communicate with us.
- Many children at the hospital are treated for a wide range of conditions including profound physical and learning difficulties, and therefore, Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity help to fund projects in order to make it easy for the children to communicate. These projects include:



Skoog

- The Skoog is a musical instrument designed specifically for special needs music, music therapy and education. It is an instrument that helps to 'level the playing field' for all, breaking down barriers and helping children of all abilities to master the art of making great music.
- The Skoog is soft on the outside but has dynamic sensors that will respond to either a gentle touch or a firm shake - it can be programmed to sound like a variety of musical instruments.
- The Skoog is suitable for children of all abilities, but is particularly valuable to those with profound physical or learning difficulties.

¹ www.skillsyouneed.com/general/communication-skills



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Portable Multi-Sensory Units

- The Portable Multi-Sensory Units are designed to relax and distract children who might need additional support during their treatments, e.g. for young children with autism as it helps to stimulate the child's senses and encourage learning.
- The unit can be used at different heights, so on a treatment bed, in a chair or wheelchair.
- The bubble column can help to calm children, they can see it as well as touch it, which is important for children who need more than just a visual distraction. It also has a sound system so music can be played for children who have poor or no vision.



Hospital Passport Scheme

- The Hospital Passport is an innovative scheme aimed to combat a child's fear of being in hospital - it enables children to feel more prepared when coming into hospital.
- Children can use the passport around the hospital, collecting a variety of stickers and stamps as they go through various treatments or 'travel' to different departments.
- It gives children a simple way to make choices about what would help them with procedures and treatments, and communicates those

easily to staff – enabling staff to fully support their patients, making their visits as positive an experience as possible.

Class Activity

- Organise a game with the pupils to introduce the discipline required to effectively mime for an audience. Firstly, ask pupils to mime individually, perhaps miming through something with which they are familiar – their daily routine. Then ask them to think about facial expressions as much as other areas of their bodies – how does this character feel about what they are doing?
- If you are working with students aged between 11 to 16, suggest that they create their own mime scene. This can range from a simple episode, e.g. looking at exhibits in a museum or a more complicated scene in which the museum exhibits come to life.

Group Activity

- Split the class up into two or three groups (around six pupils in each group). Number the pupils from one to six. Get each member from the first group to leave the room except for number one. The other groups stay in the room to watch. You then give number one an action to mime. Then call number two into the room

and number one mimes to number two. Number two cannot say anything and they have to perform the mime exactly as number one did to number three. Number three does the mime for number four and so on. When number six comes into the room they have to guess what the original mime was. This is known as the Chain Mime.

Organise a sponsored HUSH! Day in school

- Why not encourage your students to go one step further and use the tools and skills they have learned to organise a sponsored event in school (such as a sponsored silence) and help to raise funds for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.
- Work with them to plan their event and help them understand what they need to think about during the planning process.

Please get in touch to find out how we can support your school's fundraising effort. Call us on 0141 212 8750 or email info@glasgowchildrenshospitalcharity.org and start fundraising today!

