

WHO? THE THREE ACT PLAY DRAMA SESSIONS for pre school children was set up by me, Elizabeth Edmonds, in response to demand from local mums with pre-school children. I run Drama Queens locally which starts at age 3 years, and is very well established as a high quality fun and educational Drama Club for children up to the age of 18 years.

As a mother myself and working professional actor, I am convinced that drama is a key factor in the development of speech, concentration and confidence in our children. And I practise what I preach both at home and in the drama sessions.

Drama Queens is not an “eyes and teeth stage school” It is about education through drama. With clear speech, listening skills, eye contact and focus, our children can learn to function well in society with charm and ease. As actors we are trained to do this, but clearly it is a huge bonus to everyone.

We make the sessions so much fun for the children, and the earlier they start to observe and practise social skills the better. Once your children start school other influences are at work, and not always good! At this point you will be glad to have put in place a firm foundation of good, clear speech, confidence and courtesy.

WHY? Because communication is key and drama is our weapon of choice!

Two extracts from many available current Early Years Research Reports which directly tie in with our work:

At birth the brain is very unformed. Nearly all the brain structures that enable human beings to function are acquired during the first three years of life, when the brain grows and organises itself at an astonishing rate. Many of these structures in the developing brain are laid down as patterns in response to the behaviour of the adults caring for the young child. Relationships really do build brains in the early years. (Kate Cairns The Early Years Development Forum Report 2011)

Early childhood education often focuses on children learning through the "power of play". It is thought that children learn more efficiently and gain more knowledge when given the opportunity for play based activities such as: dramatic play, art and social games. This theory plays off of children's natural curiosity and tendencies to "make believe" From The Bankstreet Developmental Interaction Approach based on the theories of Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson, John Dewey)

The Classes :

ACT.1 from birth upwards.

You and your baby are welcomed into a warm and friendly atmosphere where you can meet and socialise with other mums and babies and relax in an enjoyable session of productive play. We begin **ACT.1** with:

Social Skills - Facial Signals – Expression - Listening Skills

ACT.11 for those who can now walk! **ACT.11** on the move will include your time to interact with other mums and toddlers and now a more active session with:

Social Skills - Facial Expression - Movement and Gestures - Eye Contact - Listening and Reacting

ACT.111 for those who are toddling and talking! Whatever next! Socialising with the other ACTS will by now be automatic for your children and mums can also compare notes before and after the session with:

Social Skills - Expression and Movement - Speech and Character - Eye contact and Listening - Role Play

Sessions involve: **Stories - Music - Puppets – Props – Feely Box – Rhymes – Poetry – Action Songs – Masks – Movement – Costume – Sound effects.**

