



Create Your Family Play

📖 Arts • ⌚ 30 min • 🎓 Ages all • Grade mixed

This challenge invites your family to unleash its creativity by writing, designing, and performing a unique play. It's a fantastic way to develop storytelling skills, encourage teamwork, and create lasting memories together.

Our goal is for your child to collaboratively brainstorm and develop a simple play narrative, practice creative writing and character development, and work as a team to assign roles and stage a short performance.

What You Need

Paper • Pens/Crayons • Simple Costume Items



Scan To Tailor

Every child learns differently, and this is just the baseline.

Scan to jump into the app and easily tailor this lesson to match your child's exact learning level and see how Mai will guide this lesson.



Ready for more adventures? Explore our **Sparks Hub** in the app

Lesson Blueprint

A simple, hands-on lesson that guides your child through curiosity, exploration, and reflection.



Mai's Tips

1. **Encourage younger children to draw the characters or scenes, or dictate their ideas while an older family member writes them down:** All contributions are valuable!
 2. **Remind everyone that this is about creative exploration and fun, not a Broadway production:** Keep it light, flexible, and celebrate every silly idea.
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Prep Before Session

1. Gather the materials and choose a safe, comfortable place for the activity.
2. Read through the lesson once so you know where the child will make predictions, test ideas, and reflect.



1 Introduction 5 Min

1. Imagine a grand theatre and a blank stage! Ask your child what kinds of stories they love seeing come alive. Encourage them to think about how stories get from someone's imagination to a live performance. Engage them in a quick brainstorm.
2. Guiding Questions:
3. - What kind of stories do you love to see come alive?
4. - Have you ever thought about how a story goes from an idea in someone's head to a performance on stage?
5. - What makes a good story?

 **Done when:** Student expresses interest and shares some initial ideas about storytelling or plays.



2 Explore & Plan 8 Min

1. Lay out paper, pens, and crayons for your family. Guide a discussion about the three key elements of a play: Characters, Setting, and Plot.
2. - Characters are the people or creatures in the story who drive the action.
3. - The Setting is where and when the story takes place, creating the backdrop.
4. - The Plot is the sequence of events – what happens from start to finish.
5. Help them brainstorm ideas for each of these elements for your unique family play. Younger children can draw character ideas or suggest sounds.
6. Guiding Questions:
 7. - Who are the main characters for our play?
 8. - Where will our story take place?
 9. - How does the story begin, develop, and end?

 **Done when:** Student has contributed ideas for characters, setting, and a basic plot outline.



3 Discussion 6 Min

1. Now that you have some fantastic ideas, prompt your child to think about how working together will enhance your play. Emphasize that collaboration (or teamwork) means working together, combining different ideas to make the final result stronger.
2. Guiding Questions:
3. – How do you think working together will help us make our play even better?
4. – What parts of creating a play sound the most exciting to you?
5. – How can we make sure everyone's ideas are heard?

 **Done when:** Student can articulate why collaboration is important for this project.



4 **Activity** 9 Min

1. Act as a facilitator to help bring your ideas to life. Start by outlining your story, deciding on a few key scenes or bullet points for actions. Help transcribe ideas if younger children are dictating. Have everyone choose or be assigned a role they are excited about.
2. Next, gather simple costume items from around the house, like scarves, hats, or blankets, using everyday objects as creative props. Finally, encourage a quick role-play or practice of your scenes, focusing on fun and experimentation over perfection.

 **Done when:** Student has completed the physical activity of outlining the play, assigning roles, and finding costume pieces.



5 Summary 2 Min

1. Praise their efforts, creativity, and the collaborative spirit shown in creating and performing their play. Ask them to reflect on the experience.
2. Guiding Questions:
3. - What was the most fun part of creating and performing your play?
4. - How did working as a team help make your play a success?
5. - What did you learn about telling a story through a play?

 **Done when:** Student shares one key takeaway or a favorite part of the activity.

Beyond The Lesson

Fuel their curiosity beyond the lesson with bonus sparks.



Table Talk

Professional playwrights, actors, and directors work together to create plays and movies for audiences all around the world.



Did You Know?

Everyday objects can reveal surprising science when we slow down and observe them.



Challenge

Extend the play! Add more characters, create a longer story with several acts, design a simple set, or perform your play for grandparents or friends.

Quick Recap Quiz 4 Min

Check what your young scientist remembers. Each question includes a Parent Tip to help them find the answer without giving it away.

1. What's The First Step In Creating A Play?



Performing it for an audience.



Brainstorming characters and a story idea.



Remind them that ideas come before action!

2. Why Is Teamwork Important When Making A Play?

- ☐ Only one person's ideas matter.
- ☒ Everyone can share ideas and help create it.

 Ask how different ideas make a project richer.

3. What Can You Use For Costumes In A Family Play?

- ☐ Only store-bought costumes.
- ☒ Everyday items like scarves, hats, and blankets.

 Encourage them to think creatively about household items.

4. How Can Creating A Play Help You In Real Life?

- ☐ It teaches you how to buy tickets for a show.
- ☒ It helps you tell stories and work with others.

 Discuss how communication and creativity are valuable skills.