



Drama Curriculum

**Dolphins Class
2025-6**

Curriculum Aim

To foster children’s confidence, creativity, and communication through imaginative and structured drama experiences. Through role-play, expressive movement, storytelling, and collaborative play, children develop the skills to explore emotions, ideas and narratives—growing as performers, listeners, and empathetic group members

Key Objectives

- **Communication & Expression:**
Develop spoken language, listening, and self-expression. Encourage clear speech, vocal projection, understanding and expressing emotion through voice and body.
- **Collaboration & Social Skills:**
Work as a team—listen, respond, share ideas, negotiate, and respect different viewpoints. Build empathy and confidence through group activities.
- **Imaginative Play & Role:**
Explore stories, characters and situations through role-play, make-believe, and improvisation. Transfer understanding from narrative to self and peers.
- **Movement, Space & Physical Control:**
Use the body in space to show character, mood and meaning. Sequence movement, freeze frame/tableaux, and expressive gesture.
- **Voice, Listening & Breathing:**
Develop voice control, clarity, volume, and use breath for speaking and dramatic effect. Practise listening and responding appropriately as performers and audience
- **Structure & Dramatic Techniques:**
Experience drama conventions (tableaux, teacher-in-role, improvisation, soundscapes, role on the wall, hot-seating, mime/clowning, guided drama with focus and tension).
- **Reflection & Response:**
Reflect on drama participation—how roles, choices and emotions impact the story. Share insights, respect self and others in performance and feedback

Topics & Skills to be Taught

Topic / Skill Area	Description / Focus
Freeze Frames (Tableaux)	Creating still images with bodies to represent key moments, characters, emotions or ideas

Topic / Skill Area	Description / Focus
Improvisation	Quick, unscripted role-play and story-building; responding “in the moment”
Clowning & Mime	Using exaggerated body movement, gesture, facial expression, and non-verbal humour
Voice & Breathing	Exercises to project, articulate, change pitch/tone/volume; breathing underpinning speech and tension
Role-play & Character	Adopting roles from stories, class topics and everyday life; exploring motivations and emotions
Teacher-in-Role/Guided Drama	Facilitator participates as a character, guiding children’s explorations
Soundscapes & Movement	Making atmospheric sounds (instruments, voices, body percussion); moving as characters, objects or ideas
Storytelling & Narrative	Acting out traditional/familiar stories, sequencing events, exploring beginnings, conflicts and endings
Hot-seating & Circle Drama	Peer questioning of character “in role”; group exploring different viewpoints
Reflect & Respond	Talking about drama, sharing feelings, noticing changes in self and others
Simple Performance	Sharing role-plays, mimes, improvisations and tableaux with peers and audiences

Organisation & Progression

- Weekly sessions combine whole-group work (circle, pairs, trios) and focused drama activities.
- Use familiar stories, curriculum themes and children’s interests as stimuli.
- Skills sequenced from basic movement and imaginative play, to structured drama conventions and collaborative performance (building towards sharing with parents or other classes).

Semester 1

(17 Aug – 11 Dec 2025; 16 weeks)

Topics / Skills Covered	Key Objectives	Indicative Activities
Introduction to Drama & Class Conventions	Build trust, listening skills, basic drama rules	Circle games, name/voice/face warm-ups, movement around space
Voice & Breathing	Develop clear speech, projection, basic breath control	Vocal games, counting breath, use of whispers/louds, pitch imitation
Tableaux (Freeze Frames)	Explore creating still images; represent story moments/emotions	Group freeze frames on class stories, festival symbols (e.g. apple for Rosh Hashanah)
Physicality & Movement	Control of body in space; show character through movement	Mirror games, “move like...” activities, Sukkot procession freeze frames
Role-Play & Storytelling	Take on character roles; tell narrative	Acting out stories (Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot themed stories e.g. “Jonah and the Whale”)
Listening & Audience Skills	Respond appropriately as an audience, give feedback	Watch peer performances, circle feedback, applause games
Introduction to Improvisation	Develop quick thinking and imaginative responses	Simple improv prompts, “What happens next?” with festival stories
Teacher-in-Role / Guided Drama	Engage with facilitator as character; extended story play	Teacher leads as festival character (shofar blower, sukkah builder)
Clowning & Mime Basics	Use gesture and facial expression, create humour/non-verbal drama	Mime apple tasting, clowning procession for Sukkot/harvest
Soundscapes	Create atmosphere using voices/instruments for settings/moods	Soundscape for Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot harvest scene (wind, voices, shofar)
Hot-Seating	Question characters “in role”, deepen understanding	Interview “festival guests” or story characters
Freeze Frames for Festivals	Represent key festival moments in tableau	Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Creation Story tableaux

Topics / Skills Covered	Key Objectives	Indicative Activities
Improvised Festival Drama	Create scenes based on upcoming festival events	Improvise “making the sukkah”, “preparing apples and honey”
Reflection & Group Response	Develop drama vocabulary, celebrate achievements	Sharing feelings about drama, festival performances with peer reflection

Semester 2

(14 Dec 2025 – 9 Apr 2026; 16 weeks)

Topics / Skills Covered	Key Objectives	Indicative Activities
Voice & Breathing Variations	Experiment with volume, tone, emotions; breath for tension/emphasis	Chanting for Chanukah candle lighting, echo games, drama chorus
Tableaux Development	Embellish freeze frames with gesture/facial expression, multiple scenes	Tableaux for Chanukah, Purim, “miracle” stories
Movement & Physical Character	Show emotion/story through movement	Movement games, parade for Purim, joy/dancing for Chanukah
Improvisation & Conflict	Create short scenes; respond to dramatic dilemmas	Improv “should I light the next candle?” or “find the lost grogger”
Clowning: Festival Characters	Use mime and clowning in festival contexts	Clowning as Purim characters, silly hats/masks
Storytelling through Group Drama	Sequence scenes, retell stories with voices and movement	Group acting Purim story, dramatic retelling of Chanukah miracle
Hot-Seating for Festival Heroes	Interview/role-play key festival characters	Hot-seating “Esther” (Purim), “Judah Maccabee” (Chanukah)
Soundscapes for Festival Atmosphere	Create ambient sounds for festival moments	Soundscape of “crowd at Purim” or “lighting candles for Chanukah”
Mime for Storytelling	Non-verbal drama to retell scenes; explore gesture and meaning	Mime “cleaning for Pesach”, “bearing gifts for Purim”

Topics / Skills Covered	Key Objectives	Indicative Activities
Reflect & Respond	Share feelings, discuss teamwork, peer feedback	Circle reflection on festival drama, applause for effort
Festival Performance Preparation	Plan and rehearse sharing drama with audience	Rehearse short play/skit for Purim or Chanukah, invite other classes

Semester 3

(13 Apr – 13 Aug 2026; 17 weeks)

Topics / Skills Covered	Key Objectives	Indicative Activities
Advanced Tableaux & Scene Sequencing	Sequence freeze frames into a story; link action and tableaux	Storyboarding Passover scenes; tableaux for Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations
Movement and Group Choreography	Use movement/dance in drama routines; teamwork	Create movement chorus for Passover seder or Yom Ha'atzmaut parade
Improv with Props & Costumes	Use objects/costumes to inspire dramatic scenes	Improvise with props (matzah, flags, costumes for festival drama)
Soundscapes for Outdoor Drama	Explore environmental/noise drama for festival scenes	Outdoor Passover exodus soundscape, Yom Ha'atzmaut parade music
Hot-Seating & Circle Drama: Festival Focus	Peer questioning and role-play around festival roles	Hot-seating "Moses", "Singers at Yom Ha'atzmaut" interviews
Teacher-in-Role: Festival Leader	Guided drama with teacher as character (festival leader/guide)	Teacher as Moses or Parade Leader, guiding group drama
Reflection, Evaluation & Performance	Celebrate progress, share work; rehearse for end-of-year performance	Final show (Passover/Yom Ha'atzmaut theme), festival drama reflection

Organisation & Progression:

- Skills spiral: from simple role-play & freeze frames up to improvisation, group composition, and festival performances.
- Jewish festivals (Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, Yom Ha'atzmaut) regularly inspire content, character, and dramatic structure.
- Children learn the language and conventions of drama through play, storytelling, creative movement, and reflection, with explicit links to culture and community.

Semester 1: Week-by-Week Drama/Theatre Plan

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
Wk 1 – 17 Aug	Welcome to Drama; Class Rules	Build trust, listening skills, intro drama conventions	Drama games for names, faces, voices; safe moving; freeze circles	Role play "school", circle games, movement warm-ups
Wk 2 – 24 Aug	Voice & Breathing	Develop clear speech, projection, basic breath control	Vocal exercises; count breath, sing/say loud-soft, echo voices	Whispering station; puppets for "different voices"; storytelling corner
Wk 3 – 31 Aug	Tableaux (Freeze Frames)	Make still images to show emotion/story moment	Whole-group freeze frames using class topics; pictures as starting focus	"Freeze like..." photo challenge; festival freeze frames
Wk 4 – 7 Sep	Movement and Physicality	Express character through movement, gesture	Mirror games; "move like..." animals/plants; create action tableaux	Dance scarves; action dice; role play "moving objects"
Wk 5 – 14 Sep	Rosh Hashanah Storytelling	Use drama for festival story/narrative	Re-enact Rosh Hashanah story (e.g., apples/honey); create festival tableaux	Apple shop role play; honey tasting drama; puppet festival stories
Wk 6 – 21 Sep	Listening & Audience Skills	Respond respectfully, give/show feedback	"Good audience" games; watch/reflect on peers' drama	Mini stage for performance; "reviewer notebook" for child comments
Wk 7 – 28 Sep	Improvisation (Quick Thinking)	Create short "on the spot" scenes	Simple improvisation: "What happens when...?" Festival themes	"Make up a story" theatre corner; improv prompt cards
Wk 8 – 5 Oct	Teacher-in-Role/Guided Drama	Build narrative with teacher as lead character	Teacher as festival guest (shofar blower, sukkah builder); drama journey	Invite teacher/child as character; dressing up, small world role play

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
Wk 9 – 12 Oct	Tableaux for Sukkot	Make freeze frames for festival scenes	Sukkot story tableaux (building sukkah, harvest)	Tableaux creation station; use props (lulav, etrog, boxes) for building drama
Wk 10 – 19 Oct	Clowning & Mime	Use gesture, facial expression, non-verbal drama	Mime: “eating apples”, “waving lulav”; clowning walks/games	Mime station with mirrors; funny faces contest; “Clown School” role play
Wk 11 – 26 Oct	Soundscapes	Make atmosphere using sound/body instruments	Create shofar sounds, wind for Sukkot; group festival soundscape	Sound effects zone; musical instruments for festival scene play
Wk 12 – 2 Nov	Hot-Seating (Character Interview)	Deepen role, question story character	Hot seat as “Rosh Hashanah guest”, teacher/child in role	Interview role play; “hat for a character” prop; festival storyteller bench
Wk 13 – 9 Nov	Role-Play & Imaginative Play	Take on familiar roles, use imagination in drama	Dramatic play: “family celebration”, “sukkah meal”, improv stories	Home corner as drama stage; costumes and festival story prompts
Wk 14 – 16 Nov	Physicality & Storytelling	Sequence movement to tell story	Move/dance as festival symbols (apple, honey, lulav); act out festival journey	Movement dice; dance scarves; role play harvest/celebration
Wk 15 – 23 Nov	Reflection & Group Response	Use drama vocabulary, share and reflect	Discuss favourite drama moments, give feedback, celebrate achievements	Drama reflection poster; “star of the stage” wall; sharing seat
Wk 16 – 30 Nov	End-of-term Festival Drama Performance	Rehearse, perform simple scenes/tableaux for peers	Share “Rosh Hashanah/Sukkot Drama Showcase”; reflections on festivals	Dress rehearsal area; “audience” role play; record/play back performances

How this works:

- Weekly 40-minute drama lesson blends introductory games, drama skillwork, voice/breath, movement, improvisation, tableaux, mime, soundscape, hot-seating, and festival-themed drama.
- Continuous provision inside and outside supports imaginative play, festival celebrations, role play, and rehearsal for children to revisit and extend drama skills.
- Jewish festivals (Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot) regularly inspire content, character focus, and dramatic structure.

Semester 2: Week-by-Week Drama/Theatre Plan

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
Wk 1 – 14 Dec	Voice, Chant & Festival Chorus (Chanukah)	Celebrate Chanukah; vocal variation and chorus skills	Teach candle-lighting chants and circle chorus for Chanukah, echo games	Candle-lighting role play; menorah props; chorus singing station
Wk 2 – 21 Dec	Developing Tableaux	Embellish freeze frames with gesture/facial expression	Tableaux of Chanukah/Tu B'Shevat scenes, combine gesture and expression	“Freeze at the festival” zone; photo booth for gestures
Wk 3 – 28 Dec	Movement & Dance (Festival Celebration)	Express emotion/story through movement	Dance drama for festival joy; parade and celebration movement	Scarves, dance ribbons; parade drama corner
Wk 4 – 4 Jan	Improvisation and Conflict	Improvise in response to dilemmas & festival stories	“What happens if we run out of candles?” Tu B'Shevat “growing tree” drama	Planting props; improv cards; dilemma storytelling table
Wk 5 – 11 Jan	Clowning & Physical Comedy	Use mime and clowning in festival contexts	Purim clowning and parade: hats, silly walks, mask play	Puppet theatre; mask-making station; costume dress-up area
Wk 6 – 18 Jan	Group Storytelling & Sequencing	Sequence festival stories, expand narrative structure	Retell Purim or Chanukah story: beginning, middle, end, group performance	Sequencing blocks; story dice; festival story corner

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
Wk 7 – 25 Jan	Hot-Seating Festival Characters	Question roles to deepen understanding	Interview “Esther” (Purim), “Judah Maccabee” (Chanukah) in role	“Hat for a character”; festival role cards; question corner
Wk 8 – 1 Feb	Soundscapes for Jewish Festivals	Make ambient sounds for festival drama	Create soundscapes for Tu B'Shevat (wind, rain), Purim crowd sounds	Musical instruments; noise-makers for parade; nature sound effects table
Wk 9 – 8 Feb	Mime & Non-Verbal Storytelling	Retell stories with movement & facial expression	Mime “planting for Tu B'Shevat”; “shopping for Purim”	Prop corner (fruit, costumes); mime challenge with mirrors
Wk 10 – 15 Feb	Teamwork & Collaborative Drama	Build group skills for ensemble scenes	Small group festival drama: parade, meal, family celebration scenes	Group drama dice; role badges; team performance stage
Wk 11 – 22 Feb	Listening & Reflecting	Respond respectfully as audience, feedback & expression	Watch/share Purim drama, reflect in group, “of course!” applause game	Mini stage, review table; applause poster
Wk 12 – 1 Mar	Pesach Story (Passover)	Explore Passover through drama; combine role play & tableaux	Act out Passover story; create “Exodus” freeze frames, soundscapes	Matzah props; costume trunk; “Seder table” drama station
Wk 13 – 8 Mar	Improv and Role Play (Holiday Prep)	Quick thinking around festival preparation & events	Improvise “shopping for festival”, “setting up the Seder table”	Shopping role play; holiday list cards; kitchen drama corner
Wk 14 – 15 Mar	Voice & Expression	Use voice for character, volume, emotion and emphasis	Chant/echo Pesach songs; drama with voices for characters/animals	Microphone prop; voice mirror; emotion cards

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
Wk 15 – 22 Mar	Performance Preparation	Rehearse and refine festival drama for sharing	Practice festival scenes, freeze frames, chorus for class performance	Dress rehearsal area; audience/performer role play; “stage manager” station
Wk 16 – 29 Mar	Reflection & Festival Drama Showcase	Share drama learning, celebrate together	End-of-term Passover/Purim Drama Showcase; group reflection	Performance review wall; behind-the-scenes drama table

Semester 3: Week-by-Week Drama/Theatre Plan

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
Wk 1 – 13 Apr	Advanced Tableaux & Story Sequencing	Sequence freeze frames into whole stories	Storyboard: Passover Exodus or Spring stories, freeze frame sequence	Tableaux building area; props (matzah, flowers, spring costumes)
Wk 2 – 20 Apr	Movement & Choreography	Use movement and group formation for dramatic effect	Group choreography for festival scene (e.g., Passover Seder, spring parade)	Dance scarves, parade role play, movement dice
Wk 3 – 27 Apr	Passover Storytelling	Retell Passover using drama conventions	Act out Exodus story, combine role play & freeze frames, soundscapes	Matzah props, Seder table drama corner, "Moses" costume
Wk 4 – 4 May	Improv with Props & Costumes	Use objects and costumes to inspire dramatic scenes	Improv games with festival props—flags for Yom Ha’atzmaut, Seder objects	Costume trunk; festival prop station; flag parade drama
Wk 5 – 11 May	Yom Ha’atzmaut Parade Drama	Celebrate with themed drama, collaboration and movement	Create parade drama—flag routines, parade leader, freeze	Role play parade, flag design station, performance rehearsal area

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
			frame for national symbols	
Wk 6 – 18 May	Soundscapes for Festival Atmosphere	Create atmospheric sound for dramatic scenes	Build soundscapes for Shavuot harvest scene, Yom Ha'atzmaut parade music	Musical instruments zone, rainstick making; harvest props
Wk 7 – 25 May	Teacher-in-Role: Festival Leader	Follow guided drama as teacher plays festival leader	Teacher leads drama as Moses or Parade Leader, children respond, improv together	Invite children as co-leaders, drama journey map, festival stories
Wk 8 – 1 Jun	Tableaux & Rituals (Shavuot)	Represent ritual/celebration moments as freeze frames	Tableaux for Shavuot harvest, flower gathering, dairy meals	Flower props, table setting/drama meals, ritual role play
Wk 9 – 8 Jun	Improv & Narrative Skills	Quick-thinking with story problem solving	Improv: "Planting for harvest", "Spring festival adventure"	Story dice, planting props, improvisation challenge cards
Wk 10 – 15 Jun	Movement Chorus	Use movement as a unit for festival or nature scene	Group movement: flower bloom, festival parade; sequence rehearsal	Dance scarves, mirror wall, group movement prompts
Wk 11 – 22 Jun	Hot-Seating: Festival Characters	Deepen characters through questioning in role	Hot-seat "Moses", "Festival Singer"; peer Q&A	Dress up "character chair"; Q&A corner; festival character cards
Wk 12 – 29 Jun	Drama for Tisha B'Av: Peace & Memory	Explore gentle drama about memory/peace themes	Peace tableaux, reflective movement, simple role play for Tisha B'Av	"Peace garden" prop area, quiet story bench, reflective role play
Wk 13 – 6 Jul	Outdoor/Environmental Drama	Take drama outside: settings,	Drama games in outdoor space,	Outdoor stage area; nature props; "drama

Week & Date	Topic	Key Objective	Weekly Drama Lesson (40 mins)	Ideas for Drama & Role Play in Continuous Provision
		soundscapes, movement	soundscape nature stories	in the garden” invitations
Wk 14 – 13 Jul	Reflect & Respond	Share, discuss, celebrate drama achievements	Circle reflection on festival drama, favourite moments, drama vocabulary review	Drama reflection poster, feedback notes, "star showcase" area
Wk 15 – 20 Jul	Performance Prep	Rehearse for end-of-year drama sharing	Practice scenes/tableaux for Summer Festival or “Year in Drama”	Mini stage area, costume and prop trunk, audience role play
Wk 16 – 27 Jul	Drama Performance Showcase	Present drama work, celebrate progress	Final performance: festival scenes, narratives, movement showcase	Dress rehearsal zone; video/audio recording; family invite corner
Wk 17 – 3 Aug	Goodbye Celebration	Review, reflect, say goodbye through drama	Drama games, freeze frames on ‘goodbye’ and ‘hello year ahead’	Celebration prop box, reflection games, memory wall