

# Portia's Playhouse

Ages 2-7

Calling all actors and actresses! Here are some fun family projects you can do at home...

Portia's Playhouse is a kid's size theater equipped with costumes, props and puppets to put on a show. While the museum is closed, you can still use your imagination to act out a story, do Karaoke, come up with a rap, or pretend you are performing on Broadway!

## Do

In a mirror, try to act out different emotions. Emotions are feelings an actor portrays in a story.

Start first by just using your face, then add your body and then your voice to express these emotions: happy, sad, angry, excited, hungry, etc.

If you have a partner, do a "Mirror Mime" exercise where you can take turns copying each other's expressions and movements.

Think of a story and then act it out! Use ordinary objects to make costumes and props the help tell your story. A pasta strainer can become a helmet; a towel can become a cape. What can you use to become a superhero or a favorite character from a book or TV show?



## Say

Actors practice their words every day to prepare for making a performance. They also have to make sure they speak clearly so audiences can understand them.

Try this tongue twister exercise: Say "She sells seashells by the seashore" 5 times.

Try saying it fast, then try it very slowly.

## Create

Missing our puppet theater? You can create your own puppet! Ask a grown up to help you find an old pair of socks. You can use markers to draw on a face. You can also glue or sew on felt, cotton balls, string or even newspaper for hair; Use buttons or beads can make eyes, etc.

What else can you use to add to your character? If you make two puppets you can make them "talk" to each other. Round up your family as an audience and use a table as your puppet stage.

Stories all have five main elements.

**Character:** A person, animal, or invented creature that the story is about

**Setting:** Where the story takes place

**Conflict:** The problem that the characters have in the story

**Plot:** The events that lead the characters to resolve their conflict

**Theme:** The main idea or important thing that happens

## More Resources

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"  
featuring Broadway Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yko6y73tsqY>

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