



FIRST STAGE
THEATER IN EDUCATION
AT HOME



**FIRST
STAGE**
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THEATER

DEAR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS,

Welcome to First Stage's online Education resource page. Every Tuesday, First Stage's Education Department will upload new content based on past First Stage productions for families to explore together. Each week we will include games and activities meant to spark imagination and dramatic play in new and engaging ways. These resources are free for you to use, and we encourage you to share these activities with others who you think would like to play along! Share your dramatic play shots with us at **#FSathome**

ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!"

Gerald the elephant and Piggie the pig, are best, best, "bestus" friends, and when they get together, anything is possible! They spend their days playing games, telling jokes, and helping each other out in tough situations. These two pals and their devotion to each other through ups and downs reminds us of how good it feels to put friends first.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

- Elephant and Piggie do many activities together as friends. What are some fun things that you enjoy doing with your friends?
- Elephant and Piggie will be appearing in a play and sharing things about themselves with the audience. If you were the star of your own play what would you call it? What sort of things would happen in your play?
- Check out these photos of First Stage's production of ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!". What do you think Gerald and Piggie are doing together in each of these pictures?



ALPHABET BODIES



ACTOR TOOLS: Body, Imagination

TIME: 10-15 minutes

MATERIALS: None!

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1+



Gerald and Piggie love reading books about all sorts of things. They love looking at the pictures in books, and reading the words on the page. We know each letter makes a different sound. When we put those letters together and sound them out, we create words. One of Gerald and Piggie's favorite words to read out loud is BANANA!

In this game, we are going to use our bodies to create different letters in the alphabet. Start by creating the letters with your hands, and then your arms, and finally your whole body! Try bending your body from side to side, playing with levels up high and down low, and practicing your balance to create these different letters.

- With one person, see how you can shape your body into the letters C, L, T, X, and R.
- With two people, see how you can work together to shape your bodies into the letters A, D, H, M, J, P, S, and V.
- With even more people, try working together to shape your bodies into the letters B, K, N, Q, Y, and Z.

Once you've got a hang of how to move your body and work together to create these letters, see if you can create Gerald and Piggie's favorite word – BANANA!

MAGIC CLAY — NEW TOY CHEST



ACTOR TOOLS: Body, Imagination

TIME: 5-10 minutes

MATERIALS: None!

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1+

When Piggie gets a new toy, she can't wait to share it with her best friend Gerald. It is the best toy in the whole wide world, made of plastic, with that new toy smell – Piggie is sure she will have this toy forever! What are some of your favorite toys that you like to play with and share with your friends?

In this game, we are going to use our imaginations to pantomime taking some of our favorite toys out of a toy chest and playing with them. Pantomime is when we use our bodies to act something out, without the help of words or props.

Begin with adult player pantomiming a large toy chest – you can use your hands to create the rectangle shape of the toy chest, and even pantomime picking it up and using facial expressions and physical gestures to demonstrate how heavy the box is!

- The first player will then open the imaginary toy chest and take out an imaginary toy of their choosing. When you take out the toy, your facial expression and reactions will tell everyone how you feel about the toy. Then, you are going to show the toy to the other players and begin playing with it – if it is a doll, you might cradle the baby and fix their hair; if it is a toy car, you might race it around on the floor. It is the other players job to guess what the toy is!
- Once the toy is guessed correctly, it is time for another player to pick a new imaginary toy to pull out of the toy chest.
- Some really fun toy ideas to pull out of the imaginary toy chest are: teddy bear to snuggle; a tiny bouncy ball; new markers and a coloring book; roller skates, baseball bat and ball.

MIRRORING — EVERYTHING I DO...



**WATCH THE VIDEO
EXAMPLE HERE**

ACTOR TOOLS: Body, Imagination

TIME: 10-15 minutes

MATERIALS: None!

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1+



Piggie loves to dance! Gerald would like to learn how to dance, but he thinks elephants can't dance. Piggie tells Gerald that everyone can dance, and she decides to teach Gerald how to dance by having him copy her moves.

In this game, players will mirror each other as they teach each other how to dance like an elephant and other animals.

- Start by having two players stand facing each other, about 5-6 feet away from each other, as if you are looking at your reflection in a mirror.
- One player will start as the leader, and the other will follow along as closely as possible, just like your reflection in the mirror might look. Start with the leader trying out elephant dance moves. Here are a few elephant dance ideas:
 - Trunks up. (Raise your arm your nose like an elephant trunk)
 - Swing your trunk. (Slowly waving trunk side to side).
 - Bending your knees.
 - Side to side step.
 - Stomp your feet.
 - Forward and back steps.
 - Rainbow arms. (raise arms up and into an arch)
 - Twist your hips. Etc.
- After a minute with one partner being the leader, switch roles! You can keep dancing like elephants, or change to a new animal dance. Here are some animal suggestions:
 - Pigs
 - Squirrels
 - Birds
 - Dinosaurs
 - Sharks

CREATE A COSTUME

ACTOR TOOLS: Imagination

TIME: 5-10 minutes

MATERIALS: Elephant and Piggie printout and crayons or markers

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1+



Gerald and Piggie love to play dress up. In the theater, the Costume Designer has the job of creating costumes for all of the different characters in a show. If Gerald and Piggie were in a Fairy Tale story, what sorts of costumes do you think they would wear? What about if they were in a Western, or a Science Fiction story?

Print out the picture of Gerald and Piggie and grab your favorite crayons or markers. Choose a story theme for them, and draw the costumes that go with that story on Gerald and Piggie.

CREATE A COSTUME

