

The Attic Teachers' resource

The Attic is an intimate and participative theatre experience for pre-school children and those in early primary. It explores the tender and loving relationship between a little girl called Lucy and her grandmother as they rummage through suitcases and boxes where memories are stored.

The hidden treasures they discover are precious reminders of the past but inspire playful interactions between the two that help them create new memories together and bring the sleepy attic to life.

The show is set to a beautiful live piano score and ends with an invitation for the children (and adults in the audience) to join in a tea party under the stars!

We hope The Attic gives our audiences a sense of wonder and inspires creativity. Here are few ideas to build on the experience and further explore the performance with the children in your nursery/classroom.

Activities and games to play in your nursery/classroom

Grandmother's footsteps

One person is 'granny'. They stand with their back to everyone else. The group moves forward and tries to tap 'granny' on the back. But granny will occasionally turn around! If she sees them move they can go back to the start.

Things that begin with a...

Granny remembers that she was looking for something beginning with a 'T' and Lucy lists "trainset, toy car, tiger, tank..." until she gets a 'telescope'. Pick a letter. How many things can you think of beginning with that letter?

Hat characters

Make a circle and lay out some fun hats in the middle. Take turns to pick a hat and think about who would like to wear that hat. How would they move around? What are they like? Create a story around them.

Making pom poms

Create cardboard rings that you can wind scraps of wool around to create pom poms. In the play there is a bird called Richard made out of a giant pom pom. Maybe you could make mini pom pom birds?

Wool webs

Granny loves knitting and the attic is full of crocheted webs. Why not create your own wool webs with colourful wool - maybe a project for outdoors?

Free play inspired by *The Attic*

The show includes hats, suitcases, hat boxes, tea cups and saucers, teapots, knitted cakes and knitted toys. Have these sorts of items available for free play inspired by the performance.

Exploring The Attic's intergenerational theme

Visit a care home

Intergenerational relationships is a strong theme in The Attic. Could you make a visit to your local care home? Perhaps you could go on a trip and sing some songs together?

Knitted cakes

We were overwhelmed by the generous response of volunteer knitters for our show. Perhaps parents/grandparents/ friends would like to get involved in knitting some play items for you. Fruits, vegetables and cakes are good to start with.

Music

The Attic has beautiful live music played on a keyboard. It would be interesting to play this music again and so what other stories it makes you think of. How does the music make you want to move?

Questions to encourage discussion after the performance

Why do you think Granny and Lucy got on so well?

Why do you think granny didn't want to open grandpa's box? Why did she change her mind?

Who was Richard (the bird) and why was he in the Attic?

Do you think granny's attic was magic?

What else could happen in a magic attic?

Did it make you think about anyone you know?

Do you have any questions about the show?

Links to National Practice Guidance and Self-Evaluation Frameworks

Building the Ambition 6.5.1:

Young children need experiences which give them a sense of wonder and stimulate questioning and ability to reason and test conclusions.

HGIOELC Quality Indicator 3.3:

Developing creativity and skills for life and learning.

About Starcatchers

Starcatchers is Scotland's National Arts and Early Years Organisation, specialising in creating performances and exploring creative activity for babies, toddlers and young children aged 0-5 and the adults who care for them.

We make beautiful, innovative productions with exceptional artists who specialise in work for the under 5s; deliver engagement projects across Scotland, placing artists directly into communities; and provide professional development for artists and early years practitioners to develop practice using arts and creativity with very young children.

For more information visit: www.starcatchers.org.uk | Call 0131 2902560 | Email: info@starcatchers.org.uk

About Theatre In Schools Scotland

Theatre in Schools Scotland supports and develops the provision of theatre in Scotland's schools. We aim to ensure that every child in Scotland receives - at their nursery or school - a minimum of one performing arts production, per year, as a core part of their education. It has been developed by Imagine and the National Theatre of Scotland, in partnership with Catherine Wheels Theatre Company, Visible Fictions and Starcatchers.

For more information visit: www.theatreinschoolsscotland.com | Email: tiss@imagine.org.uk