

WE HAVE FOUND IN OUR OWN EXPERIENCE AND THROUGH THE NUMEROUS EXPERIENCES OF RESEARCHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THAT DRAMA CAN BE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO HELP CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) LEARN IMPORTANT FUNCTIONAL AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS. IT IS OUR GOAL TO SPREAD THE WORD AND HELP OTHERS CREATE THEIR OWN THERAPEUTIC DRAMA PROGRAM FOR KIDS WITH AUTISM!

<http://dramaforautism.weebly.com>

For more information,
visit us at

**Drama
for
Autism!**



What is Autism?



- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a general term for a group of complex disorders of brain development.
- The disorder presents a wide array of symptoms and children with ASD can be very different from one another
- Autism is often characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, repetitive behaviors and reacting to the world around them.
- Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art
- Most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 2 and 3 years of age

Why Drama?

Drama therapy can help individuals on the spectrum learn to recognize important social cues, develop skills in communication, movement, pretend play, and social interaction



But How?

It is important to create a positive environment for communication for children with Autism. By showing kids the positive outcomes that can come from communication, these environments help children with ASD often display improved communication, greater independence and deeper relationships. Drama therapy is an excellent way to promote this positive, interactive environment.

- Drama therapy involves the use of improvisation, role-play, mime, music and movement, storytelling, masks and rituals, puppetry, theatre games and scripted drama as a therapeutic vehicle.
- It is an effective type of therapy for ASD because it keeps the children engaged by using surprises and originality.
- It integrates aspects of cognitive, emotional and social development into therapy activities.
- Researchers have found when an activity is fun and playful; a child's brain will "slip out of gear" which can strengthen brain activity and the development of flexible thought patterns.