Theatrical Journey Playbook: Introducing Science to Early Learners through Guided Pretend Play

Created by Elizabeth Bruce
CentroNia Community Arts Producer

© 2018 CentroNia and Elizabeth Bruce. All rights reserved.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTRONÍÁ PUBLISHES INNOVATIVE “STEAM” PREK CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT

Theatrical Journey Playbook: Introducing Science to Early Learners through Guided Pretend Play

Contact:
Francis Keller
CentroNía Communications Manager
fkeller@centronia.org or 202-332-4200

March 12, 2018 — CentroNía is pleased to announce publication of its Theatrical Journey Playbook: Introducing Science to Early Learners through Guided Pretend Play by CentroNía Community Arts Producer Elizabeth Bruce. The publication documents CentroNía’s award-winning “S.T.E.A.M.” (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) project developed in its Pre-K program by Elizabeth Bruce. Designed as a curriculum enhancement for formal and informal educators, the Theatrical Journey Playbook includes theoretical foundations, methodology, materials, techniques, rubrics, references, and 23 scripts for the hands-on, multisensory guided pretend play science exploration for 3 to 5 year olds.

In the Theatrical Journey Playbook, Pre-K children become science problem solvers who remedy science problems through hands-on simulations of real phenomenon. For example, the Teddy Bear gets sick and the children become the doctors who examine Teddy, assess her symptoms, take a throat swab and culture it in a Petri dish, and test a variety of medications to discover the most effective antibiotic. Using a combination of real tools, such as stethoscopes and Petri dishes, and pretend science materials, the children replicate scientific procedures that explore evidence-based cause and effect relationships.

The journeys give early learners the tools of science and engross them in a step-by-step simulation of the rigorous processes and procedures of scientific systems. The Theatrical Journey Playbook creates a theatrical space in which early learners not only belong in elite scientific spaces; they are experts who solve the problems and emergencies presented in each journey. Developed to strengthen children’s executive function, self-regulation, cooperation, and leadership skills, the Theatrical Journey Playbook features abundant language, cognitive, creative, fine and gross motor, socio-emotional, and scientific/ mathematical skill development techniques embedded in its journeys and related exercises.

For those interested in implementing the Theatrical Journey Playbook, professional development workshops and residencies are available bilingually in English and/or
Spanish. CentroNía’s Theatrical Journey Playbook will also be available for purchase on CentroNía’s website and a Spanish-language edition is in development for future circulation. For more information or to purchase the Theatrical Journey Playbook, you can contact ebruce@centronia.org or 202-332-4200 x1099.

Quotes about the Theatrical Journey Playbook:

“Constructivist education asks children to build meaning about the world around them, and the Theatrical Journey Playbook achieves this in the best of ways: through role playing, through problem-solving and by inviting the children to use their imaginations as they give shape to each play journey...Most importantly, they begin to see themselves as leaders, who are taking a big leap out into the world of learning. This confidence will stay with them as they encounter new learning experiences...and that by itself is quite a gift.”

– Eileen Wasow, Early childhood education scholar and former Associate Dean at Bank Street College of Education

“CentroNía's Theatrical Journey Playbook demonstrates excellence in: the pedagogy of arts in education; the early childhood/early elementary science curriculum; and bilingual education in the primary classroom. It is this rare and dynamic combination that has contributed to the extraordinary success of the theatrical journeys—it is a joy to watch!”

– Sarah Pleydell, Contributing Writer, National Coalition of Core Arts Standards; and Co-Author with Victoria Brown, The Dramatic Difference: Drama in the Preschool and Kindergarten Classroom

Approved photos for this release can be downloaded on Dropbox.

About CentroNía:
CentroNía’s story began over 30 years ago in the basement of a church on Columbia Road in the Columbia Heights neighborhood, serving 15 early learners and their families. Today, as a nationally recognized, award-winning educational organization, CentroNía provides affordable, high-quality early childhood education; professional development to early childhood educators; and family support services in a bilingual and multicultural environment to more than 2,400 children and families from primarily low-income, working households. CentroNía’s holistic approach ensures the children and families we serve receive the support and encouragement they need to succeed academically, develop a strong sense of community, and live healthy and active lives.