Dramatizing in your classroom

- You need a space in the room large enough to have a stage area and a place for the audience.
- Choose a rhyme, poem, or story with more than one character, a short text with action, and simple dialogue.
* Good first choices would be Nursery Rhymes, The Carrot Seed, Jump Frog Jump, or Mama Cat Has Three Kittens.
- Read and model the text first, modeling action, expression, and voices.
- List the characters with the children’s help
- Either take volunteers or use actress/actor sticks
- Read through the text again, stopping to encourage the children to say the necessary lines or do the actions.
- NOT NEEDED: props, costumes, set pieces, and rehearsals

This is a routine of our classroom. Children enjoy the repetition of the readings and dramatizations of books.
Books to get started for “Group Drama”

Clap Your Hands                   Lorinda Bryan
Cauley
From Head to Toe                  Eric Carle
Quick as a Cricket                Audrey Wood
Mama Cat has Three Kittens        Denise Fleming
The Seals on the Bus              Lenny Hort
Here are My Hands                  Bill Martin Jr. and John

2 and 3 year old Dramatization

Tickle, Tickle                   Helen Oxenbury
All Fall Down                    Helen Oxenbury
Going on a Bear Hunt             Helen Oxenbury
Jesse Bear’s Wiggle-Jiggle Jump-Up Nancy White

Carlstrom
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear           Eileen Christelow
Five Little Monkeys              Denise Fleming
Barnyard Banter
Nursery Rhymes of all types
Preschool Dramatization

Who Sank the Boat? Pamela Allen
The Three Billy Goats Gruff Stephen Carpenter
Mrs. Wishy Washy Joy Cowley
Bark George Jules Fieffer
Gingerbread Boy Paul Galdone
Corduroy Don Freeman
The Carrot Seed Ruth Kraus
The Mitten Jan Brett
The Napping House Audrey Wood
Are You My Mother P.D. Eastman
Owl Babies Martin Wadell

Kindergarten Dramatization

Farmer Duck Martin Waddell
Hattie and the Fox Mem Fox
The Three Bears
Abiyoyo Pete Seeger
Mummers, Murrupel Mortimer or others by Robert Munsch
Tacky the Penguin Helen Lester
A Porcupine Named Fluffy Helen Lester
Little Red Hen
Night Noises Mem Fox
Tico and the Golden Wings Leo Lionni
Extended nursery rhymes, chants, and raps are favorite things to dramatize.
Early Elementary Dramatization

Who Sank the Boat  Pamela Allen
Teeny Tiny  Jim Bennett and Tomie De Paola
Anansi the Spider
Chicken Little
King Bidgood's in the Bathtub  Audrey Wood
The Tub People  Pam Conrad
Bony Legs  Joanna Cole
Mouse Count  Ellen Stoll Walsh

Spanish Dramatization

Palmas Palmitas (Clap Your Hands)  Lorinda Bryan Cauley
De la cabeza a los pies (From Head to Toe)  Eric Carle
De venden gorras (Caps for Sale)  Esphyr Slobodkina
Las lechucitas (Owl Babies)  Martin Waddell
La Cucharacha Martina: A Caribbean Folktale
(traditional
Spanish tale)
Nadarin (Swimmy)  Leo Lionni
La vaca que decia oink (The Cow that went Oink)

Bernard
Most
Vamos a cazar un oso (Going on a Bear Hunt)  Michael Rosen
Le senora lavatotodo (Mrs. Wishy Washy) by Joy Cowley

Multicultural Stories
One Afternoon  Yumi Heo
I Love My Hair!  Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?  Bernelda Wheeler
More, More, More, Said the Baby  Vera Williams
Grandfather Counts  Andrea Cheng
I Lost My Tooth in Africa  Penda Diakite
The Good Luck Cat  Joy Harjo
World Team  Tim Vyner
When the Shadbush Blooms  Carla and Susan Katz

My Name Is Maria Isabel  Alma Flor
Baby Rattlesnake  Ata Te
Baby Says  John Steptoe

Tips for Story Baskets
When choosing the books- make sure they are age appropriate, that they have a repetitive theme, they are sequential. It is helpful that they have a story line, rather than concept books.
Be sure and look through the book and identify characters or items where props, if you would like, can be used. Choose simple stories that interest children.

Props can be found at carnival and party stores to find small figurines. Fast food restaurant kid's meal toys can be used. Ask parents to send in old toys. Be creative and make and create props. Shop at dollar stores, garage sales and discount stores to find treasures to use.

Baskets or bins of any kind can be used (wicker, plastic, etc...)

Steps for using Story Baskets:
1. Read the story to the children
2. Use the props to tell the story.
3. Allow the students to help you with the props
4. Place the basket in a center for children to use independently.

Story Stones

Be creative with your story stones! Find some stones of varying size. Cut pictures out of a magazine, print off clip art, stickers, or anything you can find that is flat and will go on a stone. Either use modge-podge or a combination of glue and water to stick the cut out onto the stone making sure there are no bubbles and then go over the top of the cut out with the modge-podge or glue and water. Allow time to dry and then have fun telling stories with the stones. You can use them as:

- characters in the dollhouse
- animals at the farm center
- in conjunction with the building blocks
- as food in the play kitchen
- or just in a basket for an imaginary story

Lori Steele- lsteele@bsd124.org
Joan Bishop- jbishop@bsd124.org