



Course Goals:

The goal of this course is to help our children:

- ✓ learn to play imaginatively and co-operatively with other children in a classroom setting.
- ✓ achieve a positive sense of self-awareness and self-esteem.
- ✓ gain a basic understanding of perspective taking (understanding where others are coming from).

Staff Bios:

*All of our instructors have been trained in the methodology behind **I Can Pretend!**, by Demetra Hajidiacos, who created the program.*

Ashley Butler holds two diplomas from Grant MacEwan University – one in Early Childhood Development and one in Theatre Arts. She holds a Mental Health First Aid certification for adults who interact with youth, has completed the Tattered Teddies Workshop: Suicide Prevention and Intervention for children under twelve and is certified by the Little Warriors in Sexual Abuse Prevention and in the Mandt System in conflict resolution and healthy relationships. She currently works at Elves Special Needs Society in the kindergarten classroom for children diagnosed with challenging behaviours. She has also worked privately in the homes of families with children who've been diagnosed with ASD, ADHD and FASD. She has taught for the Foote Theatre School since 2009 and volunteers for children's programs at the Canadian Mental Health Association as well as for ABC Head Start: Early Literacy Programs.

Adrienne Salmon is an Edmonton based singer, actor, musician and instructor. She holds an MA in Musical Theatre from *The Royal Scottish Conservatoire* in Glasgow and can be seen performing in theatre and concert events in the city. She has had ample experience in teaching children music and drama in both classroom and private settings. When a family member was diagnosed on the autistic spectrum, Adrienne was motivated to become educated on the topic. She believes that all children should be given the opportunity to learn in an environment that will best facilitate their education, and is very excited for this program to be brought to the Foote Theatre School.

Josh Languedoc has been involved in theatre as an actor, playwright, and director since the tender age of 6. When not involved in theatre, Josh has been serving the community as an educator for 9 years. Josh has worked for many organization and communities and uses theatre and drama as a creative ends for children. Josh has led and facilitated numerous camps with the City of Edmonton, worked one-on-one with children

with special needs with the Over-The-Rainbow Society, used play to facilitate inclusion between children with special needs and “mainstream” children with the YMCA of Edmonton, and used improvisation to meet IPP goals for students with special needs at specific schools within Edmonton Public Schools. Josh is currently finishing an after-degree in Secondary Education from the University of Alberta and has taken numerous classes and workshops on inclusion, physical skill development, anti-bullying, positive child guidance, and drama therapy. Josh is extremely passionate about theatre education and welcomes you and your family with open arms into a program.

Non-Staff Assistants:

In some cases parents prefer to send their own assistant or the teacher requests that a family provide their own assistant. In these circumstances, non-staff teaching assistants will be trained by the teacher and follow classroom protocol.

Student Expectations:

We provide a structured lesson that is delivered using best practice teaching for children with autism. Students are expected to arrive on time and participate fully in the lesson.

Kindly note that students who have difficulty sitting attentively for short periods of time (story, teacher led instruction, circle time) may require their own educational assistant provided by the family. Please speak to the teacher prior to the first class if you think this will be the case for your child.

Arriving Late:

We ask that students arriving late knock on the classroom door. A teaching assistant will escort your child into the room at a time that is not disruptive to the other children in the class (much like arriving late to the theatre!).

Parent Expectations:

Our goal is to help your child improve his/her imaginative play skills as well as social skills. This takes discipline and practice and of course a whole lot of structured fun!

Parents are expected to bring their children into the building at least 5 minutes before the start of class and stay in the building until the teacher has come out to greet the class. Parents are not permitted to drop off/pick up their children outside in Shoctor Alley or send their children alone upstairs before the start of the class.

Safety Policy:

We ask that all new parents remain in the seating area upstairs during class time in Week 1 and 2. If you decide to step outside during class time please leave another adult in your place in the event that your child needs you. Starting Week 3 you may fill out the sign-out sheet in the lobby, leaving us a cell number you can be reached at in the event of an emergency. Returning families may sign out on the first day of classes.

Communication:

A weekly email will be sent home outlining important concepts taught in our lessons. If your child is going to be absent, please email the instructor as it does affect the structure of our lesson.

Individualized Classroom Supplies:

If your child is sensitive to sound we ask that you supply your own set of ear defenders for classroom use in a ziplock bag labeled with your child's first name and last initial. A set of ear defenders can simply be an inexpensive set of headphones with the cord snipped.

If your child uses fidgets, picture cards, a white board, schedules (first this, then that) tools in his/her classroom at school we ask that you supply those resources for classroom use in a plastic container labeled with your child's first name and last initial (you can label your whiteboard with a permanent marker; no plastic container needed).

Outdoor Shoes:

We ask that all outdoor shoes during the wintertime are taken off and stored outside of the classroom door. Please feel free to supply indoor shoes for your child.

Allergy Alert!

Please be aware that the Foote Theatre School is a Nut Free Building. Students, who have life-threatening allergies, are responsible for carrying their EpiPen at all times.

Treats:

At the end of each class students select a small toy from the "treat box." We also hand out edible treats including lollipops and fruit gummies. Treats are gluten-free, casein-free and selected with care to ensure that all children (including those with allergies) can enjoy the same treat as their friends.

Other Important Notes:

Please leave all outside toys outside. They are distracting to the students and sometimes hard to put away once they have been brought into the building. This includes iPhones, iPods, iOtherthings etc.

If you'd like to register, or if you have any additional questions, please contact Doug Mertz, Director of Education and Outreach at the Citadel by phone 780-428-2139 or email dmertz@citadeltheatre.com