



UNIT 8 (KQ) PROJECT CORNER

Showtime!

Get Ready! Your students will have fun planning and putting on plays just like the Superkids do in this unit. Set up an area in your classroom to be a stage. Put out a box of clothing and accessories for costumes. Display books about costume making, theaters, acting, kings and queens, and unusual pets.

Do the projects anytime after the first lesson in this unit. You may wish to make video recordings or take photographs of children's theater performances and keep them along with any other work children create for the unit in the stage area.

Improvisation

Use old clothing and accessories.

Show the collection of clothing and accessories (hats, scarves, ties, glasses, purses, jewelry, paper crowns, firefighter's hat, toy stethoscope, and so on). Have children discuss costumes they could put together for different characters, such as a king, queen, treasure hunter, firefighter, or doctor, and stories they could tell about those characters. Let children wear the costumes and act out skits inspired by their outfits. Invite them to make posters about their skits and draw pictures of different costume designs.

Unusual Pet Show

Use pictures of unusual pets.

The Superkids' play includes a pet contest with some unusual pets. Discuss and show pictures of unusual pets, such as potbellied pigs, hedgehogs, tarantulas, hermit crabs, snakes, and so on. Have children talk about whether they think these animals would make good pets and encourage them to give reasons for their opinions. Talk about traits of the different animals, what the animals need to stay healthy, and how people take care of them.

Then have children put on an unusual pet show. They can take turns being the pet and the pet handler. Children playing pet handlers can talk about the needs of their specific animal. The children playing the pets can mimic the sounds and movements of the animals they are portraying.

Act Out *The Glum Princess*

Use paper bags, construction paper, chenille stems, mural paper, and art materials.

After reading *The Glum Princess*, organize the class into three groups and have each group perform a different act. Help children decide which characters they will play and what they will wear. Have children use art materials to make posters about the play, costumes (paper crowns, paper bag masks for pigs, chenille stem antennae for the cricket), and a backdrop that looks like the castle walls. Discuss props to use that children can make or bring from home.

Use the costumes, scenery, and props to put on the play. Children may follow the script or improvise. If following the script, practice until children can say their lines fluently and are comfortable performing. Children can put on the play for another class or for family members.