



## Day 11 - Teachers Notes

# Role Play tips for Teachers

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If you have not had much experience with role play, you might like to try some of these ideas to get you started. It is important that students understand that the actual working through the role is only one part of the role play - they need to spend time preparing for the role by getting a good understanding of the messages that are embedded in that role; and they need to talk about how they felt and the way they acted after the role play is finished.

### Starters

Have a student play the role of a visitor to Alice Springs. Other students take turns in telling him / her about the Todd River and answer questions.

You are an early explorer riding along the Todd and meeting some Aboriginal children for the first time; you know they mainly speak another language and not much English. Work out a way of using signs to show you want to be friends.

Use hats to indicate characters who may have lived along the Todd (either in town or out bush) in the old days eg a stockman, a market gardener, a telegraph operator, a bird watcher, a guest house keeper, a shopkeeper etc and make up conversations between pairs of these.

### Pass the Bottle

Pass an empty bottle or other simple object around the group and ask each person to use it as anything but what it is, in accordance with a role they are exploring. The rest of the group has to guess what it is. NB Give everyone the option of passing and waiting until they are ready to join in.

### Acting Out Directions (with or without words)

Eg It's hot and you are thirsty. You have to go down to the well at the back of the house to pull up a bucket of water. It's hard work, and now the rope is stuck. You have to tug on it, but it's still stuck. Let the rope down a bit do it carefully or you will spill the water. Now try again, keep pulling, now it's at the top. Now your pet dog is waiting for a drink. Take off your hat and fill it with water for the dog .....

### Eye Contact

Before beginning the actual eye-contact activity, discuss some situations which might include an argument and a crisis. The teacher initiates a dialogue and makes eye-contact with someone to carry on.

### Example:

Situation - Its been raining and a group of kids has waggged school and gone down to the river to swim.

Argument - They have to work out what story to tell when their Mum asks what they did at school, and they all have different ideas because its such a small town word gets around very quickly.

Crisis - What story should they tell?

Teacher (in role):

' Lets tell her that we just did revision for the Friday test ....' (Makes eye-contact with someone to carry on .... )

### Other ideas for eye-contact role play:

Situation - You have borrowed your brother's bike / car and gone 'bush bashing' along the banks of the Todd.

Argument - You now have a flat tyre and know you're not supposed to have been going 'off road'.

Crisis - Why should you be forgiven?

Situation - You have a load of bottles and can to get rid of and rather than taking it to the recycling depot, you throw it in a ditch in the river bed.

Argument - Your 'not-so-best-friend' from school has seen you and threatens to tell your parents.

Crisis - What should you do?

### Small Group Role Play

The teacher sets the situation, the characters, the problem to be solved. The small group researches the situation, rehearses and then 'performs' for the rest of the class.

Examples:

Washing the car

- organising the equipment
- doing the job
- having a waterfight

Organising a group to help chip weeds from the river

- sharing out the tools and explaining the job
- doing the job
- solving a problem in the middle of it

Making a raft

- deciding what you're going to make it out of
- collecting the parts
- putting it together
- trying it out

Making a fire in the creekbed to boil the billy

- choosing a place for the fire
- collecting wood
- starting the fire (try out a few other ways before you find some matches)
- working out what to do when a spark starts another fire in some dry grass close by



Drawing of "Todd River"  
By: Anthony  
Age: 8