

ACTIVITY GUIDE



Paper Dreams

A dance show developed by
Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD and
Mons Dansa Dance Company, Barcelona, Spain

Presented by
imagination
stage | inspire.
ignite.
engage!

Recommended for
Ages 1 to 5

Activity guide prepared by Imagination stage

CURRICULUM TIES

Common Core Standards for Maryland Pre-K Readiness:

Personal & Social Development

- Follow simple rules and routines with guidance
- Demonstrate healthy self-confidence
- Participate cooperatively in group activities

Language & Literacy Development

- Demonstrate active listening strategies
- Use elements of drama to facilitate understanding

Mathematics & Science

- Construct knowledge by raising questions and seeking answers through reasoning
- Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components

Fine Arts

- Create images and forms from observation, memory, imagination, and feelings
- Use a variety of theatrical elements to communicate ideas and feelings

Personal and Social Development/Fine Arts

Activities:

MOTION EMOTIONS

Key Concepts Addressed:

Observation, Body Awareness,
Emotional Awareness

What You'll Need:

Just yourselves and a mirror!



Our two characters in this show say so much, even without actually speaking! Instead of using words to tell us how they feel in *Paper Dreams*, the two girls share how they are feeling through their actions and movements. This is possible because they move their faces and bodies in very specific ways to reflect different **emotions**, or strong feelings they can show to others.

Talk about emotions with your child. Ask your child to use just their face to show you an emotion, such as happy. As they show you that emotion, have them look into the mirror to see their own expression and ask if they have ever felt that emotion before. Then ask them to make a face for a very different emotion, like a sad face or a tired face. Have your child look in the mirror again, and ask them what differences they see in their face. Repeat the activity to practice making several faces (excited faces, angry faces, scared faces, etc.), then practice switching quickly between them.

Now ask your child to use their whole body to show the same emotions. Are your arms heavy when you're tired? Do you jump when you're excited? Draw attention to the unique details and differences in interpretations.

Turn it into a game by seeing how quickly your child can shift between showing the different emotions with their full body. For added fun, add music and encourage your child to match the emotion they hear in the song with their movements.

Activities:

This Is A....

Key Concepts Addressed:

Fine Motor Skills, Imagination, Listening & Responding



What You'll Need:

A group of two or more people
A piece of paper

In *Paper Dreams*, paper can be anything! Throughout the show, the audience helps the two characters make fish, flowers, and more out of a simple piece of paper. Continue the creativity by passing a blank piece of paper among your family or friends. When someone takes a turn, they can then twist, fold, crumple or curl the page to turn it into anything except a piece of paper. When sharing what they've made, use the following chant.

Turn-Taker

This is my _____.
My _____.
My _____.

Group

Your what?
Your what?
Oh, it's your _____.

The turn-taker then acts out how you would use that item in real life as they complete the chant with the paper. Remind the group that to fully bring their ideas to life, they need to show us their idea for the paper and not just tell everyone what it is. Continue the game by passing the paper after each turn, encouraging everyone to be gentle but imaginative with the paper, and see how many new and different objects you can create.

Mathematics/Fine Arts

Activities:

DANCING WITH DOLLS

Key Concepts Addressed:

Pattern, Gross Motor Movement, Observation

What You'll Need:

Dancing Doll Cutouts (back page of packet)
Scissors
Room to Move



Just you and your child?

Dance as a duo! Take turns having one person arrange the doll cutouts and the other mimic the dolls' moves.

Choreograph your own *Paper Dreams* dance! As our two characters play together in our story, they find and pose with several paper dolls. They copy the dolls' poses to make a dance of their very own, repeating a few of the movements in a special **pattern**. To make your own dance, cut out the dancing dolls provided at the back of this packet. Have your child arrange these cutouts to create a dance sequence. Once completed, your child can then lead their family or friends in their own dance according to the movements shown in their sequence. For an extra challenge, make several copies of the dolls and encourage your child to use as many or as few as they would like to create their pattern, empowering them to use their favorite moves and create different patterns with the same moves.

Activities:

PLAY WITH PROJECTIONS

Key Concepts Addressed:

Scientific Inquiry, Object Manipulation, Use of Color and Light

What You'll Need:

Transparency Film (typically used with overhead projectors)

Dry Erase Markers

Flashlights

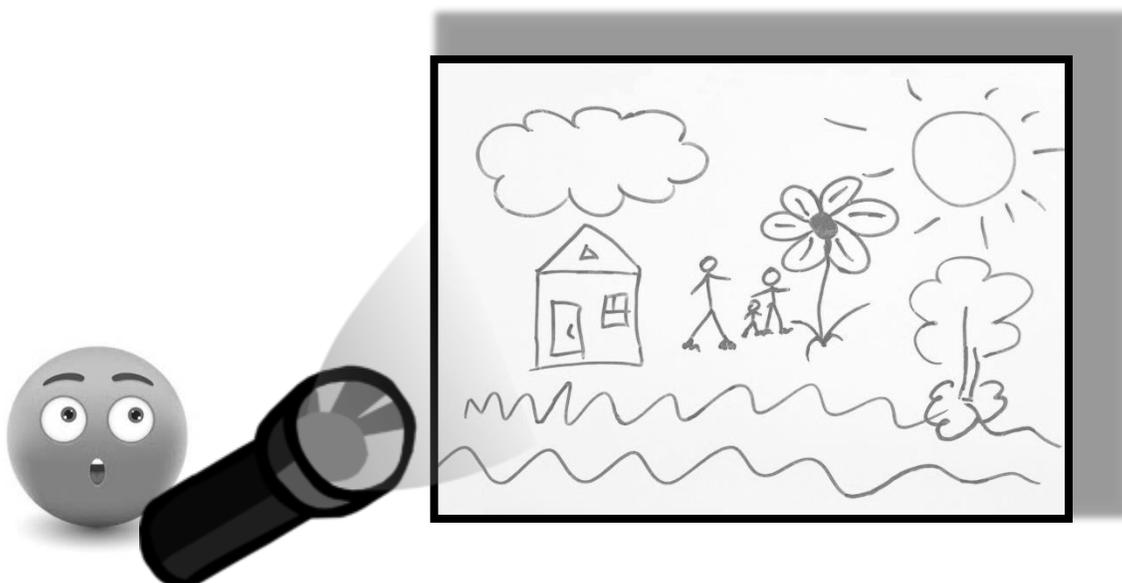
A Blank Wall

In *Paper Dreams*, the two dancing characters often play with images that seemingly appear out of nowhere. These images are called **projections**, and we created them by using light to put forth or “project” the image onto a blank surface, such as a wall or piece of paper. Explore projections on your own by using dry erase markers to color on transparency paper, which can typically be found in your local school supply or office supply store. When your artwork is complete, stand about a foot away from a blank wall. Hold your artwork in front of you and shine a flashlight behind it, displaying your artwork right onto the wall as the light goes through the transparency sheet!

Ask your child to make a prediction about what will happen if you moved these tools just as the *Paper Dream* dancers do. What will happen when you move the flashlight closer or farther from the artwork? What will happen if you move the flashlight up and down or side to side? What happens when you walk closer or farther to the wall? Test out your predictions by exploring them together. Why do you think the position of the flashlight or your body effects the image projected onto the wall?

For added fun, have a friend shine a second flashlight behind your artwork, and see what happens when one or both of your move the flashlights in different ways.

When you're done playing with your current artwork on the transparency sheet, erase it and make something new! Use different colors to see what colors show up the darkest or the brightest when projected.



Activities:

OUR PAPER NEIGHBORHOOD

Key Concepts Addressed:

Fine Motor Control, Planning, Imagination, Use of Color and Shape

What You'll Need:

Brown Paper Lunchbags

Newspaper

A Stapler

Various Sticky Papers, Labels, and/or Stickers

Markers or Crayons

Would you like to create your own paper world to dance into, just like our two girls in *Paper Dreams*? This low-mess craft is a perfect way to create rows of unique paper houses using simple brown paper lunch bags. To start, work with your child to fill each lunch bag with crumpled up newspaper (the more or less paper you use - the taller or shorter the house!). Once you think it is full enough, roll up the top and use a stapler to close the bag.

Now, it's time to decorate the house using the sticky paper shapes! Use labels or sticky notepads to add details to each unique house. How can you make doors with these tools? How many windows will your house have? Between the different shapes of the sticky paper and the many colors of markers or crayons, the possibilities for each unique house are endless! Line them up to create a whole neighborhood, and use bigger brown bags to add different and new buildings.



SUGGESTED READING

Hall, Michael. *Perfect Square*. Greenwillow Books, 2011

Johnson, Crockett. *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, HarperCollins, 2005

Portis, Antoinette. *Not a Box*, HarperCollins, 2006

Saltzberg, Barney. *Beautiful Oops*, Workman Publishing Co., 2010

Sutton, Sally. *Road Work*, Candlewick, 2011

DANCING WITH DOLLS

