

Trinity Stars Stage 1 – Activity plan – Ugly ducklings

Stage: 1

Language aims:

- ▶ Vocabulary: ducks, swans, pond and any other animals you wish to introduce into the performance
- ▶ 'We can...'
- ▶ 'Where's...?'

Performance aims:

- ▶ Expressive movement and voice
- ▶ Choral dialogue

A note about timing:

With any improvisation activities, it is hard to be exact about timing as the children may get very involved and want to continue for longer, or may not respond as you expected. However as a rough guideline, you could spend approximately 15 minutes on each activity. With very young learners it is better to do a little and often.

When rehearsing for a performance, spend at least one lesson making sure everyone knows where to move and when.

For Trinity Stars Stage 1, performances should last from 5-15 minutes.

Activity

Movement

1. How do ducklings move? How do they swim, walk, wiggle their tails? Ducks dip right down in the water to get their food.
2. Ducklings follow their mothers. Play follow my leader with one child being the mother duck and the others waddling behind.

Online resources: [Video - ducklings swimming](#)

Bottoms up game

1. To begin: The children waddle around the classroom like ducks.
2. When you call out 'Bottoms up!' The children bend right over, as if they are diving down into a pond. You could play this with music too. When the music stops, dive down.

Speak like animals game

1. How do the children think ducklings would talk? Can they say 'Hello, I'm a duckling' in a duckling voice?
2. Where do ducklings live? They swim in rivers or ponds. Have the children ever fed ducks on a pond?
3. To begin: practise saying one phrase in different voices, for example: 'Hello, my name is...'
4. Activity: show the children different flashcards of animals. They change their voices according to the animal.

Online resources:

[Ugly duckling song](#)

[Farm animals flashcards](#)

Emotions and feelings

1. How does it feel when you're playing with friends? Do you feel happy? How do you act when you're happy?
2. Now, think about how it feels when your friends don't want to play with you. Do you feel sad then? Or lonely?

3. How do you act when you're sad? Do you always cry? Sometimes we just go very quiet.
4. Help the children to explore such feelings and thus encourage them to be kind and thoughtful of others.

Performance

1. Use this song/chant as it is or as a basis for your own ideas.
2. Incorporate musical interludes if you would like to use music in your performance.
3. The script and directions can be found on the next page.

Project ideas

Below are some ideas for projects that could be used with this activity plan:

- ▶ Make a duck pond. Give the children templates of duckling shapes to paint. They could stick feathers or scraps of yellow and orange tissue paper on them too. Cut a large pond shape from blue card and help the children to paste their ducklings onto the pond. Add strips of green card around the pond to make weeds and grass. Help the children to label their ducklings. They could trace or write short sentences too, eg 'We can swim. We can walk'.
- ▶ Make a pond with water. Fill a shallow plastic container with water. Add a little blue ink or food dye to the water. Make an island from play-clay or plasticine. Add plastic bath- toy ducks. You could use your pond to experiment with things which sink or float. Help the children to write about the pond, eg: 'The water is blue. The ducks are yellow'.

Ugly Ducklings performance

The children sing or chant:

Ducklings: *We're ducklings. We can walk. We can swim. We can wiggle our tails.
Splish, splash, splish, splash, swimming in the pond!
Mummy! Mummy!*

Mummy Ducks: *Hello, ducklings. Follow me!*

Ducklings all follow Mummy Ducks in a short 'duck dance'.

The Ducklings look lost and bewildered.

Ducklings: *Where's Mummy? We want Mummy! Are you our Mummy?*

Cats: *Miaow. No. We're cats. [Act and speak like cats]*

Ducklings: *Where's Mummy? We want Mummy! Are you our Mummy?*

Dogs: *Woof woof! No, we're dogs! [Act and speak like dogs]*

Continue with as many different animals as you wish.

Swans: *Babies! Babies! Where are you?*

Ducklings: *Mummy! Are we ducklings?*

Swans: *No! You're baby swans. Follow me!*

Ugly Ducklings: *Can our friends play with us?*

Swans: *Yes!*

Ducks & ducklings: *Thank you!*

All: *We can walk. We can swim. We can wiggle our tails.
Splish, splash, splish, splash, swimming in the pond!*

All hold hands and take a bow.