

ABOUT US

CAT's Early Learning Program's goal is to support children's development of important life skills and to give educators creative ways to support those skills:

For Students: CAT workshops are designed to support the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts* and the *New York State Common Core Learning Standards*, while addressing essential social-emotional skills.

For Educators: CAT professional development workshops and mentoring programs are designed to encourage teachers to incorporate drama-based activities into the classroom, to promote children's English acquisition and early literacy, social development, critical thinking skills, and emotional growth.

For more information about CAT's Early Learning Program, visit:
www.creativeartsteam.org/programs/early-learning

ABOUT CAT *Using the power of drama to change lives. WHO WE ARE:* Founded in 1974, CAT is an educational outreach program at The City University of New York (CUNY), and in partnership with CUNY's School of Professional Studies, offers the nation's first M.A. in Applied Theatre – *using theatre to facilitate, educate and activate.* **WHAT WE DO:** Theatre cultivates a unique skill set that is indispensable for the 21st Century – primarily *communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.* CAT enriches the lives of our participants through a pedagogy which combines educational drama strategies with research-based educational theories and practices to create participant-centered, interactive drama experiences. The needs, strengths and learning styles of participants inform the actual content of workshops. CAT offers a diverse array of programs for traditional and non-traditional populations. With *four decades* of dedicated school and community partnerships, youth and professional development programs, and our award-winning Youth Theatre, CAT has reached over a million students, educators, parents, community members and teaching artists in New York City, across the nation and around the world.

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CAT is a 501(c) 3 Nonprofit Organization. To support CAT's work, visit <http://bit.ly/SupportCAT>

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Early Learning Program

CUNY-CAT is an approved NYSED CTLE Sponsor

Professional Development & Mentoring for
Early Childhood Educators

*Storytelling, Emergent Literacy, Puppetry,
Common Core & Danielson Standards, and more!*

Residencies for Early Childhood Classrooms

*Storytelling, Emergent Literacy, Anti-Bullying,
and more!*



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ELP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

The Early Learning Program (ELP) offers workshops suitable for educators and teaching artists alike. All workshops employ CAT's "model-train-practice-reflect" approach to teaching and learning. Professional Development participants receive CUNY/CAT Certificate of Attendance.

Approaching the Common Core Learning Standards Through Interactive Storytelling Levels 1 & 2

This workshop guides and mentors participating teachers through a step-by-step process that will help them build an understanding of the power of oral storytelling in developing children's listening, speaking and language skills as outlined in the Common Core Standards.

We Have Puppets, Now What?

Puppets & Puppeteering
This workshop is designed to give teachers hands-on training in puppeteering as well as identifying ways puppets can be used in the early childhood classroom to develop language skills and address emotional and social growth. Participants work with a variety of puppets, from the basic sock puppet to the more sophisticated soft "Muppet-like" puppet.

Group Building Through Drama

In this workshop, participants are introduced to drama activities that foster cooperative and collaborative learning in the classroom or afterschool setting. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying the step-by-step process as well as personal leadership style. This session can be tailored for teachers at any grade level.

Drama in the Early Childhood Classroom

This workshop explores how the use of specific drama skills - pantomime, still picture and student-centered questioning – can be used to build a student's oral literacy and self-confidence. Participants experience and then reapply (co-lead) each skill set.

Workshops for Parents

These workshops focus on how parents of young children can support their children's literacy skills using song, story, games and arts activities. The workshops are hands-on, participatory and are designed to be fun and educational:

Supporting Your Child's Language Skills

Hand games, finger plays, stories, and songs

Beyond TV

Interactive activities to implement with your child at home.

In-Class Workshops

Storytelling, Puppetry, Issue-Based Dramas, including:

Alphabet Keepers Literacy

Magic Drum Inclusion/Exclusion

Tancho Anti-Bullying

CAT's interactive, student-centered approach has proven successful across ages and abilities. Our teachers say it best:

Children who hadn't spoken all year were, all of a sudden, speaking. Children who were unable to express themselves, whether it was through voice or through actions, were able to participate, to be part of a group—to contribute in a positive way without being pointed out in a negative way. It was an awesome experience for them.

The children became storytellers. A lot of them could retell the stories they heard using facial gestures, movements, and voice changes. They are very attentive during the storytelling; it captures their attention. They feel like they are part of the story, and they really enjoy it.

So many teachers have one way of thinking and teaching. Storytelling takes you outside the box. It is not only where teachers need to go, but where administrators need to go. That's where we want our kids to go – to think outside the box, so we have to model it.

CAT ALSO OFFERS...

FOR STUDENTS

ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVE

Explore bullying prevention and conflict resolution by promoting a more inclusive, respectful community.

EMERGENT & ADOLESCENT LITERACY INITIATIVES

Enhance students' literacy, communication and critical thinking skills while supporting NYC Common Core Learning Standards.

HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE

Promote healthy choices and risky behavior prevention, including Mandated HIV/AIDS Curriculum and Evidence Based Interventions.

COLLEGE READINESS & SUCCESS

Explore the "soft skills" that are crucial to succeed in college and in life; including setting realistic goals, balancing priorities, effective communication, and the "4 A's:" *Attitude, Aptitude, Accountability and Adaptability.*

SOFT SKILLS FOR WORKPLACE SUCCESS

Explore interview skills, setting realistic expectations, balancing priorities, managing stress, effective communication, and more.

NYC STUDENT SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Teachers & students build theatre and literacy skills through Shakespeare and come together for an annual Festival in an off-Broadway theatre.

AFTER-SCHOOL DRAMA

Theatre skills, games and performances, via CASA and other after-school grants.

CAT YOUTH THEATRE

Young people work with professional theatre practitioners to create original theatre in this free after-school program—no audition required.

FOR SCHOOL STAFF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—ON-SITE OR AT CAT'S TRAINING CENTER:

- Approaching the Common Core through Interactive Storytelling
- Puppets & Puppetry in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Drama in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Group-Building Through Drama
- School Violence Prevention and the DASA
- Understanding Diversity/Promoting Cultural Tolerance through Drama
- Exploring Violence/Bullying Prevention through Drama
- Using the Danielson Competencies in your Classroom
- Young Adult Literacy (Pre-HSE Populations)
- Literacy Through Drama
- Bringing Literature to Life
- Shakespeare in the Classroom
- Student-Centered Questioning
- College Readiness and Access
- Parent Involvement
- Games! Games! Games! (Interactive Engagement Activities)
- ...AND MORE!

CAT is an approved NYC DOE Vendor.

CAT is an approved NYSED CTLE Sponsor.

In 2016-2017, 18,292 young people, teachers and parents from every community in New York City benefited from CAT programs. Share this information with your school and bring CAT to YOUR classroom!

Visit www.creativeartsteam.org for more information