

Trinity Stars Stage 2 – Activity plan – The Echo

Stage: 2

Language aims:

- ▶ *I can...*
- ▶ Playing with sounds and language

Performance aims:

- ▶ Improvisation
- ▶ Expressive movement
- ▶ Group interaction through 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 2, performances should last from 10-20 minutes.

Activity

Learning about echoes

1. Have the children ever heard their voice echo?
2. We hear echoes in large empty rooms when our own voices bounce back from the walls.
3. We can hear them in caves or sometimes when we call at large walls in open spaces.
4. We can hear echoes when we are near high mountains too.

Animals and echoes (echolocation)

1. Whales use echoes to find out where things in the sea are. They make a sound and when they hear the echo, these clever creatures know how far away it is and how big it is.
2. Bats also use echolocation to find out where trees, walls and other objects are. They don't see the objects, they understand from the echo. That is why bats have very large ears.

Playing with language

1. When babies learn their mother tongue, they experiment with different sounds and play with language.
2. When we learn a foreign language, we can develop this freedom and playful attitude. We don't always have to learn correct words with particular meanings.
3. Have fun with echoing each other in nonsense sounds and words

Game – Talk like babies

1. Some of the children might have baby brothers or sisters. What do they say? Do they speak in full sentences?
2. Encourage the children to talk like babies. Say 'Goo goo', 'La la', 'Waa waa' and so on.
3. Now copy each others' funny baby talk so that you are echoing each other.

Online resources: [Echo song](#)

Using imagination

1. Echoes aren't people but we can imagine what they might look like if they were.
2. What do the children think echoes might look like?
3. Would they be big or small? Would they move slowly or quickly? Maybe they would float like our voices in the air. Maybe they would be mischievous and hide sometimes.
4. Now say one word or phrase in lots of different ways. For example, say 'Hello!' loudly, then as a whisper, then slowly, then quickly.
5. As you change your voice, change your movements to match too.

Performance

1. Use this script 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:

- ▶ Whales and Bats – give the children templates of bat or whale shapes and let them choose which one they would like to colour or decorate. Paste the shapes on card then help the children to draw curved lines for sound waves around the creature. Trace or write 'whales/bats/echo'.
- ▶ Echo bubbles – make templates of large, blank speech bubbles. Put the children in pairs and let them both write the same word or phrase in their bubbles. For example: '*I love you*' or '*Hello*'. One should write on one side of the bubble and the other child should write on the other side, so that they mirror each other. Now paste the pairs of speech bubbles together so that they are facing each other. You could draw a brick wall or a mountain between the two bubbles.

Online resources:

[Whale and bat shapes](#)
[Speech bubbles](#)

The Echo performance

Divide the children into two groups – children and echoes.

Children: *Hello!*

Echoes: *Hello!*

Children: *Who are you?*

Echoes: *Who are you?*

Children: *I'm me!*

Echoes: *I'm me!*

Children: *Ha ha!*

Echoes: *Ha ha!*

Children: *Can you sing?*

Echoes: *Can you sing?*

Children: *Yes, I can!*

Echoes: *Yes, I can!*

Children: *Ok!*

Echoes: *Ok!*

Children: *One, two, three, after me!*

Echoes: *One, two, three, after me!*

Echo song

Children: I can say whoopee!

Echoes: I can say whoopee!

Children: Diddly diddly dee!

Echoes: Diddly diddly dee!

Children: Bing bong, sing a song!

Echoes: Bing bong, sing a song!

Children: You and me.

Echoes: You and me.

Children: I can say yoo hoo!

Echoes: I can say yoo hoo!

Children: Woo hoo, yoo hoo.

Echoes: Woo hoo, yoo hoo.

Children: Bing bong, sing a song!

Echoes: Bing bong, sing a song!

The Echo performance continued

Children: You and me.

Echoes: You and me.

Children: I can laugh, haha!

Echoes: I can laugh, haha!

Children: Hee hee hee!

Echoes: Hee hee hee!

Children: Bing bong, sing a song!

Echoes: Bing bong, sing a song!

Children: You and me.

Echoes: You and me.

After a moment, all the children stand in a row, join hands and take a bow.

