

Trinity Stars Stage 3 – Activity plan – The Wizard's birthday party

Stage: 3

Language aims:

- ▶ Birthday party vocabulary
- ▶ Lexical sets: wild animals, colours, natural phenomena, toys

Performance aims:

- ▶ Improvisation
- ▶ Mime
- ▶ Choral and individual speech

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 3, performances should last from 15-30 minutes.

Activity

Teaching about birthdays

1. Make play-clay birthday cakes and decorate them.
2. Have a pile of small birthday candles and help the children choose the right number of candles for their age and put them on their cakes.
3. If you don't want to use candles, you could use small sticks or cut-up pipe cleaners.

Game – balloon numbers

1. To begin: The children stand in a circle and each one has a number (from 1-10). You could peg their number to their T-shirt to help them remember.
2. Number 10 stands in the centre of the circle with a balloon. He or she throws the balloon up high and calls out a number. The child with that number has to catch the balloon before it floats to the floor.
3. If the child catches it, he or she takes the place of Number 10 in the centre and the game continues.

Birthdays

1. Do the children know when their birthdays are?
2. It's hard to remember the months in order and this takes time.
3. Write the names of the months on large cards and help the children to remember them by calling them out and then showing them, two at a time, and encouraging them to point to the correct month as you say it.

Online resources: [Months of the year song](#)

Game – Birthday train

1. To begin: once the children have remembered their birth month, start a train with the January children.
2. They hold each other around the waist and start the train.
3. Then call out February and the February children join the train. Continue until all the children are on the train.

Improvisation

1. In the performance later, the wizard transforms paints into balloons, clay into cake and toys into animal friends.
2. Play around with these ideas by giving the children an object, for example, a pencil. They write with the pencil. Then wave a magic wand and say *'It's a banana!'* They pretend to eat the banana.

Game – a present for you

1. To begin: each child thinks of one present they would like to give their friend. It could be something sensible, like a doll, a robot or a ball, or it could be imaginary like an elephant or a crocodile or a banana tree.
2. Cover a shoe box with wrapping paper – keep the lid separate. The children pass it around the class. Each time they pass it, they say to their friend, *'A present for you!'*
3. Then they say what the present is *'It's an elephant!'* The friend has to mime taking that present from the box and reacting to it.

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:

- ▶ Make a class birthday train with a carriage for every month. Help the children to write their names in the correct carriage.
- ▶ Give the children card templates of shapes of toys (robot, doll, teddy). Help them to draw around the shapes on gift wrapping paper. Cut the shapes out and paste them to thin card. Help the children to label their 'presents'.

The Wizard's birthday party performance

You can write a short script for this performance or use as a basis for your own ideas.

Wizard: *I'm Wizard White. It's my birthday. I need balloons for my party.*

The Wizard waves his magic wand at a paint box. A group of children make a 'magic' noise and appear with blown up, coloured balloons.

Children: *Balloons for you, Wizard!*

The 'balloon children' dance around with the balloons.

Wizard: *I need a cake for my party!*

The Wizard waves his magic wand at a plate of coloured play-clay. Some children make a magic noise and appear with a large birthday cake made from play-clay.

Children: *A cake for you, Wizard!*

Wizard: *I need some friends for my party!*

The wizard waves his magic wand at some cuddly toy animals. Some children make a magic noise and appear, miming different animals eg elephants, monkeys, crocodiles etc.

Children: *Happy Birthday, Wizard! We've got presents for you!*

Wizard: *Thank you! What's this?*

Children: *It's a scarf.*

Wizard waves his magic wand.

All: *It's a rainbow! Red, yellow, orange, green, blue, pink and purple!*

All mime admiring a rainbow in the sky and then sliding down it.

Wizard: *What's this?*

Children: *It's a ball.*

Wizard waves his magic wand.

All: *It's the moon!*

All mime gazing at the moon in the sky and then walking on the moon.

Wizard: *What's this?*

Children: *It's a plant.*

Wizard waves his magic wand.

All: *It's a forest!*

All mime gazing at tall trees, walking through a forest, climbing trees etc.

Finish the performance by dancing and playing. Then all hold hands and take a bow.