

First Theater Experiences

Being literate means knowing how to read and write, of course. But knowing where stories come from and how they can be told through music, dance and live performance is another important piece of being literate. Exposure to different experiences, stories and forms of literature also aids in building background knowledge of the world and fosters comprehension. Monroe County Public Library's First Theater Experience programs aim to introduce young children to the joys and benefits of attending plays, music, dance, storytelling and other performances presented by expert artists.

In cooperation with community partners, our First Theater Experience programs:

- Provide a diversity of cultural literacy experiences for young children
- Develop familiarity for the story portrayed and help increase comprehension
- Foster an understanding of and appreciation for various art forms
- Help develop the attention span of young audiences
- Build expectation for how to behave at live theater performances
- Provide free opportunities for families to introduce children to a form of performance art

Are you planning to take your child to see a live theater performance? See our handout:

- [What to Expect When You See a Play](#)
- [Theater Tips for Teens](#)

[Garfield: The Musical with Cattitude Study Guide](#)

[A Year with Frog and Toad Study Guide](#)

[Oliver! Study Guide](#)

[Elephant and Piggie Study Guide](#)

Benefits of Attending Live Theater Performances:

- ["Learning from Live Theater," EducationNext \(Winter 2015\)](#)
- ["Theater, Live Music and Dance," National Association for the Education of Young Children \(March 2010\)](#)

First Theater Experiences Upcoming Events

	<u>Cardinal Stage Company</u>
	<u>Indiana Festival Theatre</u>
	<u>Indiana Youth Musicians</u>
	<u>Musical Arts Youth Organization</u>
	<u>Reimagining Opera for Kids</u>
	<u>Stages Bloomington</u>
	<u>University Players</u>

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Links

- [1] <https://mcp1.info/childrensfirsttheater/experiences>
- [2] https://mcp1.info/sites/default/files/MCP1_WEB_What-to-expect-when-you-see-a-play_09-14.pdf
- [3] https://mcp1.info/sites/default/files/PRINT_READY_Teen-Theater-Tips_10-15.pdf
- [4] https://mcp1.info/sites/default/files/images/print-ready_guides/the-musical_study-guide_09-17.pdf
- [5] https://mcp1.info/sites/default/files/images/mcp1_a-year-w-rog-and-load-study-guide_03-17.pdf
- [6] https://mcp1.info/sites/default/files/images/print-ready_oliver-study-guide_11-16.pdf
- [7] https://mcp1.info/sites/default/files/Elephant-and-Piggy-Study-Guide_4-2016.pdf
- [8] <http://educationnext.org/learning-by-theater/>
- [9] https://www.zanyac.org/files/yofr/Theater_Ave_music_and_dance.pdf
- [10] <http://www.cordnabstage.org>
- [11] <http://www.indiana.edu/~theatreproductions/P2013.shtml>
- [12] <http://www.jymusiccare.org>
- [13] <http://www.majmimusic.org>
- [14] <http://pik.kimcsball.com>
- [15] <http://www.stageabcomington.com>
- [16] <http://www.indiana.edu/~playevs>