



Karen Erickson

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DRAMA: THE MISSING LINK TO CLASSROOM LEARNING

Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson

For Parents and Other Community Members

Time Required: 1.5-2 hours

Maximum number of workshop participants: 30

Drama/theater is a powerful tool for enhancing learning in other academic areas, as well as a key subject to be studied in its own right. Participants explore how drama integrates and enhances student learning in the area of science (or social studies or language arts). In addition, drama/theater is a dynamic tool for infusing the classroom with energy, real world practice, and life-long personal skills that equal success in later life. Participants experience the art form and discuss how integrating it with other subject areas benefits students.

KAREN L. ERICKSON has been a Professional Teaching Artist for more than 20 years. As Executive Director of Creative Directions, she trains artists and teachers in drama education, curriculum planning, arts integration, and assessment development nationally and internationally. Ms. Erickson continues her work as a playwright and stage director in addition to authoring seven drama education books used in schools throughout the country. Her most recent publication, *The Arts: keystones to Learning* was published in 2005 and documented 26 arts integrated programs in the Chicago Public Schools. She served as the Artistic Director of Trinity Square Ensemble Theater in Chicago for eight years in addition to several years working at the Goodman Theater where she was an assistant to Tennessee Williams during his two-year residency. Ms. Erickson has written more than 15 plays for youth and adults produced by theater companies across the United States. She works with the Kennedy Center's professional development programs including Changing Education Through the Arts (C.E.T.A.). Ms. Erickson is a certified teacher in English, Speech Communications, and Theater Education for grades K-12. She co-wrote the Illinois Arts Goals, Standards, Performance Descriptors and Chicago Drama Benchmarks in addition to a state book on Fine Arts Integration.