

Imaginary Travel: Establishing Setting with Props and Role Play

By Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist Kofi Dennis

Imaginary Travel to the Rainforest

1. Talk to children about where you plan to go. Make it a discussion and encourage them to participate.
2. Talk about the weather (Will it be hot or cold?), landscape (What will you see around you?), and those who live there (Animals? People? Dinosaurs? etc.).
3. Discuss RULES for the journey. Who is the leader, and what are the expectations for everyone?
4. Use real props and instruments to help bring the travel to life. Even simple props can help the children with their creativity and problem-solving skills. This example uses props showing water, birds, and sun, as well as sound effects with the rain stick and five-tone pipe.
5. In addition to real props, incorporate imaginary things (food, clothing, umbrellas, flashlight etc.) that might be needed on the journey.
6. At times, you can use a musical instrument, like a triangle, to remind children to pause and listen for directions.