



Special Gifts Theatre

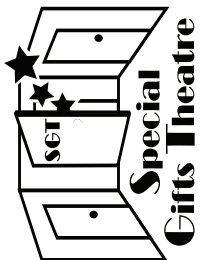
Opening Doors to New Possibilities

Early Childhood Program

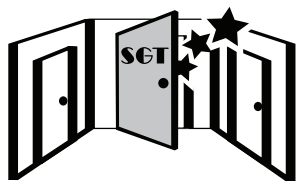


Serving children ages 3-6 years old with special needs

Special Gifts Theatre (SGT) is a not-for-profit organization that provides children and teens with special needs, a unique, creative drama experience enabling personal growth while breaking down stereotypes related to disabilities within the community at large.



P.O. Box 2231
Northbrook, Illinois 60065-2231



Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.

Opening Doors to New Possibilities

About Special Gifts Theatre

Special Gifts Theatre (SGT) is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2000 to provide children and teens, who possess a wide array of special needs (physical, cognitive, social, emotional and learning) the opportunity to experience the joy and enrichment that theatre arts can bring. It was designed to motivate and honor the creative spirit in each individual. The program though recreational in scope, is educationally and therapeutically based.

Theatre arts provides an excellent opportunity for: enhancing an individual's self-esteem and self-confidence; encouraging problem-solving abilities; strengthening listening, focusing, and attention skills; improving communication; and fostering cooperation.



About SGT's Early Childhood Program

Based on the positive statistical and analytical research results in our partnership with the University of Illinois, SGT created the Early Childhood Program in 2007. Our successful pilot program determined that utilizing multi-sensory learning experiences as well as dramatic play, enables young children to gain mastery in the areas of language, expression, social skills and emerging literacy. All of these skills lay the foundation for early success in and outside of school. Clinical research and practice have proven the powerful impact of utilizing the creative arts on a young child's cognitive and affective learning.

Like All SGT Programs....

The program is process-oriented and child centered and provides active experiences compatible with a range of learning styles. Engaging activities are carefully tailored to the developmental level of each child so they have the opportunity to excel at their own pace.

Children leave our classes with a sense of pride and accomplishment since the focus in all SGT Programming is on what they CAN do, not what they cannot do.

ECP Classroom Content

Our Early Childhood Program utilizes creative drama, music, gross and fine motor activities and other multi-sensory experiences to bridge each child's natural propensity for active learning and the demands of a structured pre-school or kindergarten curriculum.

Our process oriented approach into story dramatization stimulates interest in the content area of school curriculums and enables the child to learn concepts that can transfer to academic success. Stories are selected in conjunction with school curriculum content area standards of learning. Literature enrichment and extension activities promote language and thinking skills, stimulates imagination, develops expressive and receptive language and heightens effective listening skills.

Utilizing positive behavior support, our ECP team provides children with special needs a venue to build confidence and artistic and social skills in a non-competitive, supportive environment.



About Our Staff

- Our professional and committed staff of pediatric occupational and speech therapists, special education teachers and developmental specialists provide an environment in which the creative instincts of children can flourish.
- Our staff to student ratio is 1:2 with teachers adapting instructional play material to facilitate each child's successful participation in our program.
- Teachers meet frequently to assess each child's individual needs in planning and adapting each lesson plan, and participate in ongoing staff development programs.
- Our professional staff is trained in using drama techniques that approach development in a unique way to ensure each child's personal success.

Parent Involvement

- Teachers will be contacting their assigned child's parents throughout the program to report on their child's participation and growth in the program.
- Parents will be told what stories we are using and encouraged to work with their child at home.
- SGT believes in open communication between staff and parents.
- Regular email updates are sent to the parents regarding important program updates and announcements.
- Unless requested in specific circumstances, the parent(s) will not be able to directly observe classes so as not to disrupt the flow of the program and create an unequal balance for the other children.

The Story Show

ECP's 15 weeks of classes culminates in a "Story Show." The Story Show is a special day when the children in each class demonstrate a "glimpse" of the magic that has been created in the classes over the course of the program. It is important to note that the Early Childhood Program's focus is on the process of learning and the Story Show demonstrates some of the activities we utilize as well as presenting part of a story they have worked on.

In an effort to build personal and artistic self-expression, the atmosphere is kept low pressure and noncompetitive. We therefore limit the number of people attending in order to minimize as many distractions as possible, so each child is actively able to demonstrate their creative drama skills to loved ones.



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I am interested in ...

- having my child participate in your program
- the peer mentor program
- providing possible referral sources
- having someone call me to discuss making a tax deductible donation
- volunteering as a:
- Production Assistant
 - Peer Mentor
 - Backstage Assistant (Props, costumes, etc)
 - Administrative support
 - Other _____

Name _____

Age of Participant _____ Date _____

Co. Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

*For further information or questions, please contact us.
Completed forms and donations can be mailed to the
address below:*

Special Gifts Theatre, Inc.

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For more information about Special Gifts Theatre, Inc., log on to www.specialgiftstheatre.com