



OUT TO PLAY

DRAMA ARTIST

APPLICATION PACK

*"Logic will get you from A to B.
Imagination will take you everywhere."*
Albert Einstein



May 2021

The Role of Drama, Storytelling & Creativity in Learning for Sustainability & Outdoor Learning

It is widely recognized that schools, nurseries, educators and anyone with a responsibility for children and young people, must nurture in them a deeper connection to our natural world.

We also know that developing and embedding Learning for Sustainability across education is vital as we seek to take urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts.

What are the most effective ways to engage, inspire and elicit feelings of wonder, curiosity and care for nature in children and young people? What is the role of Creativity in Learning for Sustainability? What happens when we put the Arts at the core of environmental, outdoor education? And how can we promote nature connection in a concrete playground?!

These are some of the questions that Glasgow based theatre company Eco Drama have been exploring since 2015 through the delivery of award-winning creative outdoor learning project Out to Play.

What Is Out to Play?

[Out to Play](#) is a unique arts-based outdoor learning project that uses **Drama, Storytelling & Creativity** to engage and develop learners and teachers in the broad subject area of **Learning for Sustainability**.

Drama Artists from Eco Drama collaborate with partner primary schools and nurseries to design and deliver five-week long creative outdoor learning residencies tailored to the unique surroundings of each school playground, with a goal to notice and appreciate nature within urban environments and deepen children's connection with the natural world.

The project has a strong **Continued Professional Development** (CPD) element for teachers, including twilight training sessions in drama and storytelling skills, plus teacher led weeks where staff design and deliver their own 'Out to Play' session, incorporating arts-based learning, creativity and play with a nature theme or topic, and the project's legacy is that schools and nurseries continue to deliver arts-based 'Out to Play' sessions after the project ends. In many partner schools, teachers have gone on to use storytelling and drama across all areas of the curriculum, and now take their children outdoors to learn on a more regular basis.



"I hadn't realised the power of imagination within outdoor learning."

Teacher, Corpus Christi Primary

"I have gained openness to taking children outside for outdoor learning which will stay with me for the rest of my career." Teacher, Dalmarnock Primary School

Project History

Out to Play was first piloted in 2015 in 4 primary schools across Glasgow, reaching 283 pupils and 91 teachers with the project and its associated CPD sessions. The project went on to win the [Glasgow City Council Environmental Initiative Award 2016](#), and attracted interest from many more schools and nurseries across Greater Glasgow looking to explore more imaginative ways of taking children outside, leading Eco Drama to design a 4 year project.

During 2017-2021, Eco Drama delivered a full-scale 4 year Out to Play project supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation plus other funders, with in-depth residencies delivered in **21 partner Primary**

Schools, Nurseries and Complex Support Needs Schools across Glasgow, with a particular focus on schools in areas of high deprivation. The project also reached a further **82 settings** across Scotland with associated staff CPD sessions. To date, Out to Play has reached over **4,000** children and young people, and **688** teachers, early years practitioners and educators and sold **800+** copies of the **3 Out to Play resource packs** worldwide. The project thankfully continued in school playgrounds throughout 2020, safely delivered observing Covid-19 guidance.



Out to Play 2021

Due to ongoing interest and demand for the project, Eco Drama are delighted to be continuing the project into 2021 in a variety of forms, including:

Primary School Residencies

5 week Out to Play residencies are currently being delivered during April - June 2021 in Glasgow primary schools by the existing Drama Artist team, with more scheduled in Glasgow (and possibility surrounding areas) for autumn 2021 during September-October and October-November 2021. It is the primary school residencies which we are recruiting for, though there might be scope for work in the other strands of the project as outlined below.

Out to Play for all 236 Nurseries in Glasgow City Council

The early years strand of the project is also expanding throughout 2021. After launching the [Early Years Out to Play Resource Pack](#) in February 2021, the project attracted the interest and support of Glasgow City Council. Every nursery in Glasgow has now received a hard copy of the pack as well as the opportunity to send 2 staff from each nursery to an Out to Play CPD Webinar delivered by Eco Drama and Drama Artist Sarah Rankin during April - June 2021 which introduces the pack content and Out to Play approach.

Out to Play CPD Sessions – Face to Face and Digital Webinars

We are going to continue developing the continued professional development aspect of the project in autumn/winter 2021 through the delivery of twilight or full day face to face training sessions and/or webinars for both Early Years Practitioners and Primary School teachers. The current Early Years/Primary School Drama Artists will be leading on this but have limited capacity, so we may call on the newly recruited Drama Artist to support in the delivery of this strand of the project as we gain a better idea of demand.

Role Summary

We are recruiting for **one (possibly two)** experienced Drama Artists to deliver Out to Play residencies within the playgrounds of partner **primary schools** during late **August – November 2021**. The role can be part-time or full-time depending on the artist and demand from schools.

The Drama Artist will be highly imaginative with a proven track record of designing and delivering creative drama and storytelling sessions with children and young people aged 5-11. We are looking for a confident artist who is passionate about looking after the natural world and skilled in facilitating and nurturing a love for nature through creative learning.

The Drama Artist should have strong storytelling skills, able to incorporate engaging stories from around the world which inspire wonder, curiosity, care and respect of nature, as well as an ability to weave in drama games/activities and nature connection exercises that link to an overall eco topic or nature theme.

A Drama Artist comfortable utilising props and imaginative sensory/visual aids is advantageous, supporting learners within urban/concrete playground environments to develop creativity and imagination and feel a deeper sense of connection to the natural world.

The Drama Artist must be comfortable working outdoors in primary school environments and familiar with building positive relationships in educational contexts and collaborating with teachers. Previous experience delivering CPD/CLPL sessions with primary school teachers is advantageous.

We will require the new Drama Artist (s) to take on the **primary school Out to Play residencies** and associated CPD sessions during autumn 2021, however there is scope for other work relating to the Out to Play project in late autumn/winter 2021 and possibly into spring 2022, such as supporting the delivery of external CPD sessions in schools or delivering interactive digital webinars for primary school teachers and early years practitioners. Should things develop this way and work becomes available, experience working with early years children aged 3-5 and early years practitioners would be advantageous.

Training

Eco Drama have created 3 Out to Play resource packs full of tried and tested stories, drama games/activities, session plans, tips and ideas which can support the Drama Artist. We will also provide training sessions with the existing Drama Artists as part of the induction period in August 2021.

Job Title	Out to Play Drama Artist (Primary Schools)
Location	5 week Out to Play residencies will be delivered in the playgrounds of Primary Schools across Glasgow. Planning from home and the Eco Drama office at The Briggait, Glasgow. Exact schools tbc. The role would ideally suit someone based in or near to Glasgow.
Contract	<p>The contract is offered on a freelance basis and can be full-time or part-time, depending on the applicant (s) and demand from schools. At this stage, we have one part-time contract on offer, working in one school part-time Sept-Oct and a second school Oct-November. This could increase to full-time (4 schools) should we get more schools on board, or we can explore recruiting two part-time Drama Artists. We will have a fuller idea on the number of schools signed up by late June 2021.</p> <p>Full-time would involve 2 schools per week for each 5 week block. E.g., Monday & Tuesday in School 1, Wednesday & Thursday in School 2, Friday for prep and planning.</p> <p>Part-time would involve working in 1 school per week over 2 days, either Monday & Tuesday or Wednesday & Thursday, with a half day set aside for planning each week, though in weeks 4 & 5 of the residency when the CPD elements happen, this increases to a full day of planning and prep.</p>

Dates	<p>We are looking for the Drama Artist (s) to be available from August – November 2021, which breaks down roughly as follows:</p> <p>Training Days: (number of days in August tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideally these will happen at some point during August, preferably towards the end of the month and close to the first residency start date, but this can be negotiated as this is also dependent on the existing Drama Artist availability to deliver training. Dates tbc by early July for all involved. <p>5 week Residency Block 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting week beg 30th August OR 6th September running for 5 weeks until week beg 27th September OR 4th October (delivering in one or two schools depending on full-time or part-time contract) <p>5 week Residency Block 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week beg 18th October until week beg 15th November (delivering in one or two schools depending on full-time or part-time contract)
Structure	<p>The Drama Artist will visit the school and meet the teachers prior to planning the residency overview to ensure it is tailored to the school grounds and linking, if suitable, with the school's current outdoor learning and learning for sustainability priorities. The Drama Artist will then produce a residency overview at least 1-2 weeks prior to the residency starting, and more detailed session plans are to be provided each week ahead of the delivery days, with plans tailored to lower, middle and upper primary depending on the residency and shared with participating teachers so they can plan to incorporate the ideas and learning back in class.</p> <p>Each residency works with 6 classes and their teachers over the 2 days, with a delivery day consisting of 3 x 1 hour (or 1 hour 15 min) sessions with each participating class. Depending on the school's choice, it may be any class from P1 – P7.</p> <p>Continued Professional Development (CPD) for Teachers:</p> <p>Each residency includes a twilight CPD workshop, delivered by the Drama Artist for all 6 participating Teachers in Week 4, ahead of the teacher-led sessions which happen in week 5. The project ends with a final twilight CPD session, which all teachers at the school are invited to attend and the content of this session is shaped accordingly.</p> <p>The Drama Artist writes 1 blog per school at the end of each residency.</p>
Fee	<p>£120 per day. A part-time Drama Artist delivering 1 residency over 2 days per week over 2 x 5 week blocks, plus planning and prep time would receive:</p> <p><u>Part-Time Drama Artist</u></p> <p>Delivery Fee (2 days per week for 2 x 5 week blocks): £2,400 Prep and Planning Fee: £900 Total Residency Fee = £3,300*</p> <p>*Plus, training days paid at £120 per day Travel will be negotiated if the Drama Artist lives outwith Glasgow.</p>
Budget	<p>A materials budget of £50 will be provided for each residency.</p>

Description of Duties

- To design and deliver a 5-week programme of imaginative outdoor learning sessions which apply the use of drama and storytelling as learning tools.
- To ensure the residency and sessions have a framework that is flexible and responsive to the needs and ambitions of each school and their diverse environments.
- To ensure sessions have scope for the teacher to be actively involved in co-leading, where desired.
- To ensure sessions are fully participative, playful and learner-led, working from and tailored to the existing level and experience of the children and young people involved.
- To design & deliver two twilight CPD workshops for teachers in weeks 4 and 5 of each residency.
- To maintain and develop a positive and collaborative relationship with partner schools throughout each residency.
- To monitor and evaluate children and young people's progress and personal development throughout the residencies through taking occasional photographs (where approved), recording anecdotal soundbites and any written evidence, and encouraging the use of Wonder Boxes – creative responses/reflections which pupils do with their teachers back in the classroom.
- To assist in gathering completed evaluation forms from teachers.
- To report to the Eco Drama Artistic Director and Schools Project Manager on a weekly basis.
- To write one Out to Play Drama Artist Blog at the end of each 5-week residency.
- To complete an end of project evaluation and/or attend an end of project check out meeting.
- There may be an opportunity to deliver further Out to Play CPD workshops/webinars with teachers or early years practitioners from other schools or nurseries outwith the main project. These would be scheduled around demand and the Drama Artists availability.



Person Specification

Candidates must have the following essential skills and attributes, and be able to provide evidence and examples of this in the application and at interview:

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong evidence of ability to plan and lead on the delivery of drama-based projects. ○ Experience of storytelling. ○ Min. 2 years experience working with children aged 5-11 years, preferably within a primary school setting. ○ Enthusiasm for exploring the role of drama and storytelling in outdoor learning. ○ Strong interest in nature, sustainability, current ecological ideas and thoughts and to be a positive role model in this respect. ○ Creative and resourceful. ○ Ability to plan adaptable sessions for learners aged 5-11 years and adapt leading style to different ages/stages within a school environment. ○ Excellent communication skills. ○ Able to work on own initiative. ○ Ability to collaborate and build positive relationships with school staff and teachers. ○ Well organised, punctual, reliable. ○ Interest in socially purposeful projects working at grass roots level. ○ Based in Glasgow/within commuting distance of city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experience delivering drama based environmental education and/or outdoor learning sessions. ○ Experience of environmental storytelling. ○ Experience delivering CPD/CLPL workshops for teachers. ○ Experience of using teacher-in-role. ○ Experience working with early years children and early years practitioners. ○ Working knowledge of the Curriculum for Excellence ○ Experience in educational blogging. ○ Experience using Wordpress or similar website management system for blogs. ○ Forest Schools training certificate, learning for sustainability qualification, volunteering experience or similar. ○ Child protection/ health & safety awareness.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications are invited in the form of a **Drama Artist Proposal** to please include the following:

- A copy of your latest CV
- Letter of application. No more than 4 sides of A4 outlining:
 - Why you are interested in the Out to Play project
 - How your skills & experience would enable you to meet the post requirements
 - How you would approach designing an Out to Play residency in a primary school setting, briefly describing what your 5 week plan might look like and any specific areas or ideas you would like to explore.
- Any appropriate supporting material to demonstrate your work – e.g., photographs of your work/resources or written material/DVD footage.
- Please fill out the Candidate Contact Form
- Please complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form and send this by email along with your application documents.



Please submit applications by email to Emily Reid, Artistic Director: emily@ecodrama.co.uk

For any questions or to arrange an informal chat about the role and project please contact Emily via email.

Please note the position is subject to a check through Disclosure Scotland.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to receiving your application.

TIMESCALES

Deadline for submissions: **Tuesday 8th June at midnight**

Interviews for the Drama Artist position will be held on **Thursday 17th June** at The Briggait in Glasgow. Applicants must be available on this day. Interviews will include a practical element outdoors.

Please note this is dependent on covid restrictions at the time, and if face to face is not allowed, the interview will instead be via zoom.

Possible second stage interviews will be held on **Wednesday 23rd June** at a Primary School in Glasgow. This will involve planning and delivering an Out to Play session with primary school pupils. The prep and planning for this will be paid.

Further Information on Context

*"To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
An eternity in an hour."* William Blake

The Out to Play project is a creative response on the need to reconnect children with nature and the outdoors. Out to Play brings arts-based outdoor learning experiences to children and young people, predominantly across Greater Glasgow, due to growing evidence that children living in certain areas across the city have less access to green spaces and fewer opportunities to engage in regular outdoor play. For many children, playing outdoors at school may be the only opportunity they have to play safely and freely. Moreover, it may be the only involvement they have in the arts.



Drama in Environmental Education

Not only is there a call for more environmental awareness in education, but in the development of innovative teaching methods. Kollmuss & Agyerman point out that increased knowledge does not always lead to pro-environmental behaviour, which is known as the 'value-action' gap. Hoogland* asserts that *'the arts can address the emotional and imaginative connections missing in much environmental education'*, and that drama specifically *'allows children to inquire about their relationship to their physical surroundings whilst also touching them emotionally'*. ***2003: The Land Inside Coyote; Reconceptualising Human Relationships to Place through Drama**

Utilizing Drama and Storytelling has shown much promise within the realm of Outdoor Learning, to quote a participating teacher from Out to Play; *"I hadn't realised the power of imagination within outdoor learning."*

All partner schools and nurseries that get involved in the project have Outdoor Learning on their Quality Improvement Plans, with teachers keen to explore the role of drama and storytelling in delivering Outdoor Learning, with one partner school citing: *"An opportunity like this to work with and collaborate with a drama and storytelling specialist has a wonderful CPD benefit for staff who will be able to embed the shared techniques and creative ideas in future years"*.

With the freedom for learning to exist beyond the school building, the landscape is full of opportunity for imaginative, experiential learning.

Nature Deficit Disorder

The disconnection of children, and adults, from nature is attracting considerable concern. Richard Louv coined the phrase 'Nature Deficit Disorder' in his 2005 book 'Last Child in the Woods', meaning that human beings, especially children, are spending less time outdoors, resulting in a wide range of behavioural problems, including attention difficulties, obesity, higher rates of emotional and physical illnesses and weakened ecological literacy and stewardship of the natural world.

As access to outdoor play areas shrinks, the indoor world has enlarged in importance. A lack of positive role models was one of the barriers to children spending more time outdoors highlighted by the National Trust's [Natural Childhood Report](#). Other barriers noted include the rise of indoor entertainment technologies, over-scrupulous application of health and safety procedures and limited access to green space in urban areas, especially in socially deprived neighbourhoods.

"Since the 1970's the area in which children may roam without supervision in the UK has decreased by almost 90 per cent, while the proportion of children regularly playing in wild places has fallen from over half to fewer than 1 in 10." Stephen Moss, Natural Childhood 2010

“Even nature itself has become a commodity. Many believe they cannot experience it unless they are in a nature reserve, have the right pair of binoculars, or are wearing the correctly endorsed clothes...so often nature is seen as something to travel to – not something we are immersed in all the time and dependent upon for our physical, emotional and spiritual health.” The Natural Childhood Report

It is a challenge, for teachers, facilitators, artists, parents – anyone responsible for children, to take action and facilitate interaction with the natural world. Children have a deep affinity to nature – they are internally wired to learn and play with their environment. Nature needs to be integrated into our everyday lives; however, within cities and built landscapes this may mean re-thinking traditional views of nature as merely ‘sites’ and ‘reserves’.

Out to Play meets this challenge by enabling drama artists, teachers, children and young people to collaborate within urban, built-up environments to have meaningful, creative interaction with the natural world. It nurtures confidence to be outside, supports imaginative approaches to play and learning, and drives forward the natural synergy between the arts, environmental education and outdoor learning.

Out to Play Aims

- ✓ To develop the role of drama, storytelling and creativity within the field of outdoor learning.
- ✓ To advance children and young people’s academic attainment in relation to Learning for Sustainability.
- ✓ To develop children and young people’s knowledge, understanding, respect and enthusiasm for nature and their local environment.
- ✓ To develop children and young people’s confidence, creativity, health and wellbeing, social, moral and cultural development.
- ✓ To increase children and young people’s access to higher quality outdoor learning activities.
- ✓ To increase the amount of time children spend learning and playing outdoors.
- ✓ To develop teachers’ knowledge, confidence and skills in delivering arts-based outdoor learning.
- ✓ To increase the level of arts-based outdoor learning happening in schools beyond the life of the project.

Content

The Drama Artist designs and delivers an interdisciplinary programme of imaginative outdoor learning sessions which apply the use of Drama and Storytelling techniques as learning tools. Sessions make connections across the [10 Eco-Schools Topics](#), [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and Curriculum for Excellence, with a particular focus on **Learning for Sustainability**, engaging learners emotionally and intellectually with this broad subject area through a ‘head, heart and hands’ approach. The Drama Artist plans sessions that are responsive to the needs and ambitions of each school, and tailors the content to the unique outdoor surroundings of each school playground, exploring it through imaginative play and creative, adventurous learning.



The 5 week programme borrows ideas from the **3 Out to Play Resource Packs** developed by Eco Drama during our 2015-2020 Out to Play residencies and may also involve new ideas and stories brought by each individual Drama Artist. Sessions may cover subjects such as the **Water Cycle, Animals, Waste Minimisation and The Web of Life** and a typical Out to Play session includes elements of Drama, Storytelling and Nature Connection activities.

Further Project Information

- **Out to Play Project Information, Photographs, and Drama Artist Blogs:**
<http://www.ecodrama.co.uk/projects/out-to-play/>
- Watch the 2015 Short Film '[Uprooted & Out to Play](#)'
- Watch the 2018 Out to Play [mini documentary](#)
- Watch the Early Years Resource Pack [Launch Film](#)



- **Out to Play Reports**

To read a selection of Out to Play project reports, which include evidence of the project's impact to date plus pictures, graphs and testimonials from pupils and teachers, please visit:

<http://www.ecodrama.co.uk/resources/evaluation/>



Company Background

Eco Drama is an award winning children's theatre company delivering [theatre productions](#), [workshops](#) and [creative learning projects](#) in schools, nurseries, theatres, community venues and festivals across Scotland and the UK, touring in an [electric car and eco van](#) run on recycled waste cooking oil, reducing CO₂ emissions by 85%. Our vision is that the arts, in particular drama, storytelling and theatre, become increasingly recognized as powerful tools through which we can explore and re-imagine our relationship to the natural world.

We make work for children, young people, their families and wider communities and deliver work locally in Glasgow, across Scotland and the UK. The company also create educational resources, deliver continued professional development sessions for teachers and early years practitioners, and deliver arts-based

community events. We aim to link arts and cultural experiences with positive practical action for the environment, for example, by supporting schools and communities to plant orchards and these activities are embedded into the artistic and strategic design of our work.

The organisation was founded in 2007, and to date has worked with over 86,000 children and young people and their communities. Eco Drama has a proven track record of managing and delivering innovative projects, from small scale projects lasting for a few months to large-scale 3-4 year projects. For example, our Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund project 2012-15 worked across over half of Glasgow's primary schools and wider communities, reaching 25,353 beneficiaries with community led arts-based learning, touring theatre, workshops and practical growing projects. Our latest project *Out to Play*, funded in part by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, is a multi-year project delivering arts-based outdoor learning residencies in partner primary schools and nurseries in disadvantaged areas across Glasgow. Since the pilot in 2015 and throughout the 4 year project 2017-21 we have been working in-depth with over 4,000 children and young people and over 688 teachers, collaborating with and supporting partner schools to embed arts-based outdoor learning as a regular part of the school's timetable.

Eco Drama have 13 years' experience working with partner schools, nurseries, venues and diverse communities, delivering quality theatre productions, creative learning experiences and innovative growing projects. To date, Eco Drama has been instrumental in planting 43 school orchards and 1 community orchard across greater Glasgow with 171 Scottish heritage fruit trees, alongside inspiring community engagement via our associated production *The Forgotten Orchard*. We have also delivered projects that grow and develop innovative garden spaces whilst creatively engaging people of all ages with local food growing, sustainability themes and which encourage greater care of the natural world and community spirit. For example, Eco Drama was the lead organisation involved in creating [Townhead Community Orchard](#) in collaboration with the newly built Townhead Village Hall and local community. Eco Drama also delivered [The Living Stage](#) project in Glasgow – an award winning global participatory arts and food growing project developed by Australian designer and ecoscenographer Tanja Beer, which Eco Drama designed and developed with 4 school communities across Glasgow in 2015, and which went on to win Glasgow City Council's Environmental Initiative award in 2016.

Most recently throughout 2020-21, adapting to covid restrictions, we have been fortunate to continue delivering the fourth year of our current [Out to Play](#) project in school playgrounds across Glasgow, as well as a new digital arts and climate change project with secondary pupils [Future Calling](#). We have also continued delivering our programme of [continued professional development](#) for teachers and early years practitioners both outdoors and digitally, supporting education staff to develop their creative outdoor learning practice.

We are passionate about:

Creating Quality Theatre & Creative Learning Experiences

Our goal is to create high quality, meaningful work that inspires greater awareness of nature and reminds us we are part of an amazing living planet. Our productions and projects are unique in that they join up arts experiences with positive, practical action for the environment.

We believe all humans are born 'ecocentric' but that these values can often drop away as we grow older. We are privileged and excited to make work with and for children & young people in hope of nurturing compassion for the natural world, ensuring it remains a core value in the way we live our lives.

Collaboration & Community

We believe that joining forces with experts in the fields of outdoor learning, horticulture and education strengthens the quality and sustainability of our performances and projects. We also seek out opportunities to work in the heart of communities, in partnership with other arts, community and

environmental organisations.

Our productions tour regularly to theatres, festivals and public venues whilst maintaining a strong focus on touring the very same work in schools. We are proud to deliver theatre to children in their local communities and schools, ensuring that creative experiences reach children and young people regardless of their location or socio-economic background.

Evaluation & Research

We are committed to evaluating the impact of our performances and projects with the young people and communities we work with. We build monitoring, evaluation and reflective practice into all of our activities to maintain the quality of the work, provide evidence and share learning on the impact and value of theatre and arts-based learning.

We also involve children and young people in the development of our productions and projects, enabling us to tailor our work to suit specific audiences and enhance the arts experience.

To read a selection of reports visit the [Evaluation](#) page of the website.

For full details of our work please visit

www.ecodrama.co.uk

