NYLA-YSS CONFERENCE
BRIDGING THE GAP: TWEENS TO TEENS
IMPROV ACTING GAMES

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WHY IMPROV ACTING GAMES?

*They are fun!
*Builds creativity
You have to be creative if something goes wrong on stage!
*Helps new actors “get out of their shells”
*Explore emotions
*Perform in front of peers, not an audience of strangers
*Get ideas from other actors
*Usually no winners, no losers, working together
HOW CAN IMPROV ACTING GAMES HELP YOU WITH THEATER?

* Helps you break out of your shell
* In touch with your emotions
* Does everything always go the way it is supposed to during a show?
* Acting is physical, too - get used to moving around, making faces
GROUND RULES FOR TWEENS AND TEENS:

*You can be silly, but it has to make sense. Don’t say anything that would get you in trouble at school.
*Respect your fellow actors, be a good audience member
*The programmer is the director.
Tweens and teens will follow what the director says to do, just as an actor in a play would do.
GROUND RULES FOR PROGRAMMERS:

* Encourage working together
* Discourage competition
* Tweens and teens are never wrong but you can tell them when they are being “inappropriate”
* Allow them to be a little loud and silly!
* Parents can stay, but remember that children can be inhibited when parents are around.

Discourage parents from getting involved with the child’s acting

* Don’t pressure the shy ones, but keep inviting them to join
  “Be real” with the tweens and teens
*This bridges the gap: Tweens and teens are torn between acting like children or like adults

Tweens and teens get to play even when it might not be “cool” to play make believe and use their imaginations
EDUCATIONAL VALUE?
YES! THERE IS!

*Public speaking/life skills
*Creativity
*Expose to a world of careers
*Literacy tie in

*Mental Health: emotional awareness and leisure activities
EASIER GAMES

*The Martha Game
*Lemonade, Lemonade
*Whole Zoo Duck, Duck, Goose
*Car Pool
*Party Game
*Improv Freeze Game
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HARDER GAMES

*You Should Buy My...
*The World’s Worst...
*The Question Game
*One Word Each Story
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