

# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



## Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for First Grade Drama and Theatre Arts. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas – emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

## Drama and Theatre Arts Education for Elementary Schools (k-5)

The Drama and Theatre Arts standards in the elementary years focus on general drama knowledge/skills and basic theatre elements to ensure a solid foundation for more specialized study in later grades, including technical theatre, acting/writing/directing, and film studies. In each grade, students investigate techniques, perform theatrical works, examine characters and settings, consider the work of playwrights, discover and describe personal theatre preferences, and explore constructive ways to provide feedback on the performances of their classmates.

## Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Karol Gates, Colorado Arts Content Specialist at 720-202-9268, [Gates\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Gates_k@cde.state.co.us)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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everychild. onevoice.

At the end of  
First Grade,  
students can...



The Colorado Academic Standards in Drama and Theatre Arts  
are organized by elements of the Creative Process:  
Create → Perform/Present → Know/Comprehend and Critique/Evaluate/Refine

## Drama and Theatre Arts Education Learning Expectations for First Grade

### Create (Create)

Act out characters by focusing on certain physical traits (height, weight) and/or emotional traits (funny, sad).

### Perform (Perform/Present)

Re-enact short stories to show the beginning, middle and end.

### Critically Respond (Know/Comprehend and Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Use simple theatrical vocabulary (plot, character, setting, upstage, downstage, props, script) and explain some simple similarities and differences between types of drama (theatre, movies, and television).

## Throughout the First Grade, you may find students successfully applying the elements of the creative process by...

- Talking about physical traits of storybook characters.
- Creating human and animal characters in specific environments (the actions of an elephant in the jungle versus an elephant in a living room).
- Acting out a teacher-narrated story by demonstrating the actions and events described.
- Deciding if a story is something that could happen in “real” life or if it is imaginary.
- Discussing some similarities and differences between a theatre performance and a movie based on the same story.