



## What is CODE?

The Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators is the subject association for drama and dance education in Ontario. Our network provides professional learning and resources to over 900 educators through our website, conferences, and regional events.

CODE is a non-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteer educators, whose goal is to encourage and support teachers in the implementation of drama and dance programs in Ontario.


# DRAMA in Ontario schools

## Why the Arts Matter

It is through the expressive languages of the Arts: Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, that we build broader understandings of the world around us.

CODE believes that all children in all schools must be educated in all of the arts in order to ensure:

- ▶ Social equity
- ▶ Creative thinking/problem-solving
- ▶ Critical thinking
- ▶ Digital and technological literacy
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Empathetic communities



**Creativity  
is as important in  
education as literacy,  
and we should treat it  
with the same status.**

— Sir Ken Robinson

[code.on.ca](http://code.on.ca)

# What is Drama education?

Drama is as important as any other subject. When people hear the word “drama” we tend to think of school performances or musicals. Polished productions are not the only purpose of drama in today’s education system. It begins with provoking imagination.

## Drama is...

- ▶ Empowering students to use their voices and bodies to tell stories and express emotions.
- ▶ Negotiating and collaborating effectively on a variety of social and global issues.
- ▶ Communicating ideas, perspectives, and points of view in creative ways.
- ▶ Stepping into the shoes of another, and developing empathy.

# Why is drama important in your child’s education?

Innovation and creative problem solving are considered two of the top qualities needed in the work force of the **21st century**. Drama builds these crucial skills. Drama empowers your child to be imaginative, flexible problem solvers and more confident, self-directed learners.

With the shift in focus to digital learning and technology, students need opportunities to build physical relationships and social skills. All students of all abilities make human connections through drama. It deepens **communication** skills across the curriculum.

Arts education is key to ensuring students’ success in school, work and life.

— *Arts Education Partnerships, 2013*



90% of parents reported that The Arts motivated their kids to learn.

— *Dr. Rena Uptis, 2011*

