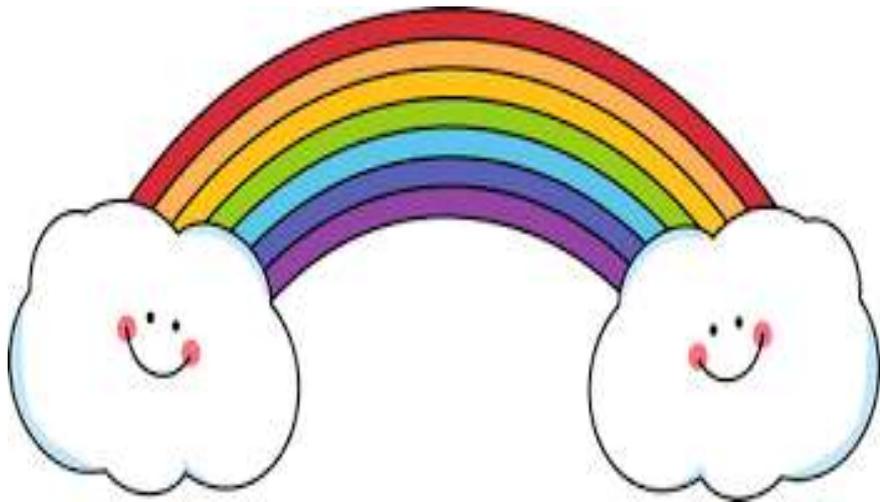


'The Rainy Day'



The Story:

Let's set the scene. There is the smell of flowers in the air! To the left of the set is a window with 'rainy day' themed curtains hanging from them. The curtains are closed. To the side of the window is a drain pipe. The stage is designed to look like a garden. The back drop is a blue sky with several rain clouds. There is a fence at the back with beautiful flowers growing up it.

There are flower beds with various different flowers growing in them, a pond and a lawn. There is a table with items for the performance hidden under it. I play the part of the mum in the story. I start by asking the children if they like going out when it rains and whether they like splashing in puddles? I ask for a volunteer to play the child in the story.

1. The child opens the curtains. There is the sound of rain. The child is sad as they really wanted to go out and play but the rain has ruined their plans. Then the child looks across and sees a spider crawling up the drain pipe. I give all the children a spider and we sing 'Incy, Wincy spider'.
2. The mum tells the child not to be sad and wonders whether they would like to see a cloud in a bottle? I perform the experiment for the child.
3. I explain to the child that if we wear our waterproof coats we could go outside in the rain and jump in puddles. We put on our coats and go outside. I ask the audience to spread out. I give the children in the audience umbrellas and rain makers and place 'puddles' for them to jump in. We sing 'I hear thunder'.
4. I explain to the child how the flowers need water to grow. The child asks what type of flowers are growing on the fence. I explain they are roses. I pass round a bowl of rose petals for the children to touch and smell. I show the children some wild flowers and we try and identify them.
5. I show the child some flowers which are all withered up. I explain if we add water the flowers will thrive and grow. By adding water to folded up paper cut to look like a flower it will magically open up (this experiment will be written on an experiment card which the children can take away and try at home or in the classroom).
6. The child says he doesn't think the animals like the rain either. I explain that frogs love the rain. We look in the pond and sing '5 little speckle frogs'. Children from the audience volunteer to help the frogs jump into the pond.

7. I then say 'what about the snails?' We find two snails and race them to see who wins. I get the audience to cheer for the snail they would like to win.
8. I then explain how the tap of the rain on the soil makes the earthworms come to the surface. Then the birds come out to feed on the worms. I ask for a volunteer to help feed the birds.
9. The child then asks whether we might see a rainbow. I explain the sun needs to come out. I ask what colours they might see. I give coloured scarves to children in the audience and we sing 'I can sing a rainbow'. I use a set of test tubes with food dye at the bottom. I add water to each and they change colour to make the colours of the rainbow. We then watch as the sun comes out and a rainbow is formed using a special light or banner.
10. I then look at the end of the rainbow to see if it is true that there is a pot of gold. We find a pot of chocolate money which I share with the audience.

