

# Words in Motion

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PRESENTS

## The Friendship in Action Workshop Series

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### AN ACTIVE, CUSTOMIZED APPROACH TO DEVELOPING EMPATHY FOR GRADES 3,4 & 5.



Through drama and discussion, the FIA workshops help children articulate some of the social/emotional problems they experience while helping them find coping strategies for these issues. The workshops also help students develop empathy so they can see things from another's point of view as they expand friendship skills. Teachers are shown ways of using drama to help children safely explore and experience social/emotional situations. At the same time, students learn drama techniques and playwriting concepts.

Custom made drama presentations and activities focus on the children's own definition of friendship and are based on the experiences and challenges they identify and face in their daily lives, in the classroom and on the playground.

The project takes place over several sessions. It includes the following:

- The Words in Motion (WIM) team makes an initial visit to the identified classes to research, define & learn about the children's thoughts on friendship.
- The children write their individual concerns and suggestions and place them in a private box which is monitored by WIM.
- WIM develops skits that reflect these concerns which will be presented to the children up to the point of resolution.
- WIM presents these skits to the children with some analysis throughout.
- WIM team goes into the classes and acts as workshop leaders within each of the classes to encourage, support & enrich the children's efforts in finding and presenting their resolutions to the challenges. Drama techniques and skills are introduced.
- Support is given to teachers in developing drama techniques as a means to enrich the children's ability to communicate their feelings and to develop their sense of empathy.
- The children present a few of the dramatized skits which now have potential resolutions.

## AND FOR JK-SK AND GRADES 1 & 2

WIM presents a series of workshops based on well-known literary characters who are good friends. Simple performances of selected stories are presented as examples of friendship.

Discussions, games and other drama activities led by the WIM team lead to a deeper understanding and ultimately to the children's creation of their own stories, which reflect shared concerns.

For more information about FIA workshops and how they might help your school, please contact  
Words in Motion: 416.658.3773 or visit our web site: [wordsinmotion.ca](http://wordsinmotion.ca)



“Since the Friendship in Action intervention by WIM, I have noticed a reduction in negative behavior.”  
*Barb Adams, Principal, John D. Parker Junior School*

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TO STIMULATE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL  
AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT,  
ARTS APPRECIATION, AND CULTURAL  
UNDERSTANDING IN CHILDREN,  
THROUGH THE PERFORMING ARTS.

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Words in Motion: 416 658 3773 [www.wordsinmotion.ca](http://www.wordsinmotion.ca)

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