

## ABOUT US

CAT's Early Learning Program's goal is to support children's development of important life skills and to give educators creative ways to support those skills:

For Students: CAT workshops are designed to support the *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts* and the *New York State Common Core Learning Standards*, while addressing essential social-emotional skills.

For Educators: CAT professional development workshops and mentoring programs are designed to encourage teachers to incorporate drama-based activities into the classroom, to promote children's English acquisition and early literacy, social development, critical thinking skills, and emotional growth.

For more information about CAT's Early Learning Program, visit:  
[www.creativeartsteam.org/programs/early-learning](http://www.creativeartsteam.org/programs/early-learning)

**ABOUT CAT** *Using the power of drama to change lives. WHO WE ARE:* Founded in 1974, CAT is an educational outreach program at The City University of New York (CUNY), and in partnership with CUNY's School of Professional Studies, offers the nation's first M.A. in Applied Theatre – *using theatre to facilitate, educate and activate.* **WHAT WE DO:** Theatre cultivates a unique skill set that is indispensable for the 21st Century – primarily *communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.* CAT enriches the lives of our participants through a pedagogy which combines educational drama strategies with research-based educational theories and practices to create participant-centered, interactive drama experiences. The needs, strengths and learning styles of participants inform the actual content of workshops. CAT offers a diverse array of programs for traditional and non-traditional populations. With *four decades* of dedicated school and community partnerships, youth and professional development programs, and our award-winning Youth Theatre, CAT has reached over a million students, educators, parents, community members and teaching artists in New York City, across the nation and around the world.

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#### Support for CAT FY17 Programs Provided By:

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**CAT is a 501(c) 3 Nonprofit Organization. To support CAT's work, visit <http://bit.ly/SupportCAT>**

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## Early Learning Program

Professional Development & Mentoring for  
Early Childhood Educators

*Storytelling, Emergent Literacy, Puppetry,  
Common Core & Danielson Standards, and more!*

Residencies for Early Childhood Classrooms  
*Storytelling, Emergent Literacy, Anti-Bullying,  
and more!*



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# ELP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

*The Early Learning Program (ELP) offers workshops suitable for educators and teaching artists alike. All workshops employ CAT's "model-train-practice-reflect" approach to teaching and learning. Professional Development participants receive CUNY/CAT Certificate of Attendance.*

### Approaching the Common Core Learning Standards Through Interactive Storytelling Levels 1 & 2

This workshop guides and mentors participating teachers through a step-by-step process that will help them build an understanding of the power of oral storytelling in developing children's listening, speaking and language skills as outlined in the Common Core Standards.

### We Have Puppets, Now What?

*Puppets & Puppeteering*  
This workshop is designed to give teachers hands-on training in puppeteering as well as identifying ways puppets can be used in the early childhood classroom to develop language skills and address emotional and social growth. Participants work with a variety of puppets, from the basic sock puppet to the more sophisticated soft "Muppet-like" puppet.

### Group Building Through Drama

In this workshop, participants are introduced to drama activities that foster cooperative and collaborative learning in the classroom or afterschool setting. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying the step-by-step process as well as personal leadership style. This session can be tailored for teachers at any grade level.

### Drama in the Early Childhood Classroom

This workshop explores how the use of specific drama skills - pantomime, still picture and student-centered questioning – can be used to build a student's oral literacy and self-confidence. Participants experience and then reapply (co-lead) each skill set.

### Workshops for Parents

These workshops focus on how parents of young children can support their children's literacy skills using song, story, games and arts activities. The workshops are hands-on, participatory and are designed to be fun and educational:

### Supporting Your Child's Language Skills

Hand games, finger plays, stories, and songs

### Beyond TV

Interactive activities to implement with your child at home.

### In-Class Workshops

Storytelling, Puppetry, Issue-Based Dramas, including:

### Alphabet Keepers Literacy

### Magic Drum Inclusion/Exclusion

### Tancho Anti-Bullying

CAT's interactive, student-centered approach has proven successful across ages and abilities. Our teachers say it best:

*Children who hadn't spoken all year were, all of a sudden, speaking. Children who were unable to express themselves, whether it was through voice or through actions, were able to participate, to be part of a group—to contribute in a positive way without being pointed out in a negative way. It was an awesome experience for them.*

*The children became storytellers. A lot of them could retell the stories they heard using facial gestures, movements, and voice changes. They are very attentive during the storytelling; it captures their attention. They feel like they are part of the story, and they really enjoy it.*

*So many teachers have one way of thinking and teaching. Storytelling takes you outside the box. It is not only where teachers need to go, but where administrators need to go. That's where we want our kids to go – to think outside the box, so we have to model it.*

## CAT ALSO OFFERS...

### FOR STUDENTS

#### ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVE

Through this interactive drama workshop series, students explore Bullying and Violence Prevention; Conflict Management; and Relationship Violence

#### EMERGENT & ADOLESCENT LITERACY INITIATIVES

These interactive drama workshop series enhance students' literacy, communication and critical thinking skills

#### HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE

This interactive workshop series for students explores Mandated HIV/AIDS Curriculum/ Sexuality; Drug & Alcohol Prevention; Obesity Awareness

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Helps students become more active in the school community by exploring communication among students, teachers and parents; Conflict Management; Diversity/Cultural Tolerance; and Goal Setting

#### NYC STUDENT SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Professional development & in-class workshops culminate in a multi-school Festival in an off-Broadway theatre

#### COLLEGE READINESS & ACCESS

Through this interactive workshop series, students address the "soft skills" that are crucial to succeed in college and in life, including setting realistic expectations; balancing priorities; effective communication; and the "4 A's:" Attitude, Aptitude, Accountability and Adaptability

#### SOFT SKILLS FOR WORKPLACE SUCCESS

Exploring interview skills; realistic expectations; balancing priorities; managing stress; effective communication; and more

#### CAT YOUTH THEATRE

Free, afterschool program for middle & high school students—no audition required. Work with a professional theatre staff to create original theatre

### FOR SCHOOL STAFF

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On-site or at CAT's Training Center:

- Approaching the Common Core through Drama
- Using the Danielson Competencies in your Classroom
- Introduction to Drama Strategies for the Classroom
- Understanding Diversity/Promoting Cultural Tolerance through Drama
- Exploring Violence/Bullying Prevention through Drama
- Approaching Literacy through Drama
- Exploring Literature through Drama
- Shakespeare in the Classroom
- Storytelling & Emergent Literacy in the Early Childhood Classroom
- Puppets & Puppetry in the Early Childhood Classroom
- ...AND MORE!

In 2015-2016, 17,600 young people, teachers and parents from every community in New York City benefited from CAT programs. Share this information with your school and bring CAT to YOUR classroom!

Visit [www.creativeartsteam.org](http://www.creativeartsteam.org) for more information