

# **A Study of Peer Interpersonal Relationships Improvement Among Elementary School Pupils Based on Creative Drama Activities**

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## **Summary**

Schools are the places where children foster their social abilities. Almost every body likes to play drama during childhood. Creative drama has been found to make students' creativities and improve their reading abilities in the literature. But, does it change students' social relationship? Or improve their social abilities?

The purpose of this study was to improve the peer relationships among elementary school pupils based on creative drama activities. The action research had been conducted for observing the activities process and outcomes on 25 4th grade elementary school pupils in Taipei. The 12-unit creative drama curriculum had been designed in 2006 and taught during spring term 2007 by the researchers. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed; the qualitative approach involved observations and interviews, and the quantitative approach incorporated sociometry scale and interpersonal relationship questionnaire applications.

The main findings of this research are stated as follows: 1. The pupils' interpersonal relationship after the creative drama activities has been improved. 2. The improvement of pupil's interpersonal communication competence based on the creative drama activities was observed. However, it seemed to need longer time for pupils' empathy to cultivate and accumulate. 3. The class management through creative drama activities was found to have

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improved.

There are some suggestions for teachers and the school administrators based on the results. The suggestions for teachers are: 1. Teachers need to know more about the theoretical framework of creative drama teaching before guiding their students to play creative drama activities. 2. There is a need to make some behavior rules before the activities begin. The suggestions for school administrators are: 1. Encourage teachers to participate in more conferences or take more courses on creative drama teaching. 2. Prepare some places or classrooms that are spacious enough to teach drama activities.

**Keywords:** creative drama activities, peer interpersonal relationships, social status