



# The Stuffed Animals and Fragile People Play by Sara Gese

During free choice time Lauryn and Jemma were busy creating a structure in the block area. I watched as it became more and more elaborate.

They seemed to be formulating ideas about what they were building as they worked.

It eventually became a home for Jemma's fragile doll and a variety of stuffed animals.



At cleanup time both begged me to be able to save what they had built. “Can we save it, please?”

“What about circle time?” I asked, as we always gather on the carpet, right where their structure was sitting.

We figured out together that we could move the dollhouse off the rolling table. Lauryn and Jemma carefully reassembled their structure, enlisting the help of their classmates who were interested, too, in helping them preserve their work.



Jemma then decided that this was to be a set for a play. She asked me to write a sign for her.

It said, “The Stuffed Animals and Fragile People Play, by Jemma and Lauryn.”

The Stuffed Animals  
and Fragile People  
Play

by JEMMA

LAURYN



After lunch Jemma and Lauryn asked to present their play. Francesca and Stella were interested, too, and wanted to help perform it.

All of them worked together to arrange chairs for an audience and announced to the class that they were invited to a performance.



The audience gathered for the production.



All of us were captivated as we watched your ideas come to life.



At the end of the play the cast took a bow.  
We were so proud of their accomplishment.



## What it means...

Both of you, Jemma and Lauryn, inspired each other and those around you in this process.



All of you, Jemma, Lauryn, Stella and Francesca, were invested in following through with your ideas. You created a story line for a play, together, and gave it as a gift to your classmates and teachers.

You stuck with it for a considerable length of time. Working together you figured out ways to creatively overcome obstacles.

You were able to gather a group to see your play. You thoughtfully considered how to accommodate and engage the audience as you dramatically presented the ideas that were interesting to you.

## **Opportunities and Possibilities...**

The class now has an example of how to put on a thoughtful play. They have seen how a play is created, how many details are involved, and what a performance entails. This provides a new opportunity for everyone.

We now have an example of the courage it takes to get up in front of a group to perform and also the personal rewards of being able to do it successfully.

This class is alive with the possibilities of enacting dramatic ideas for the group. I am so excited to see what comes next!



## Lauryn's family view...

“This is a great way to share a child's experience at school with the parents. On the day this occurred, Lauryn had mentioned that she worked on a project with her friends but we only had a vague idea what she had done. The pictures and narrative together clearly show what the children accomplished.

“Sometimes the seemingly simple things, like dramatic play, are taken for granted by us. Lauryn does not have any siblings so we seldom see group play at home. The learning story really highlights the coordination, cooperation, and problem solving involved in putting on such a production.

“While reviewing the learning story with Lauryn, she excitedly shared her recollections from that day with us and why it was special to her.

“ We are very impressed and proud of the thoughtfulness and creativity demonstrated by Lauryn and her friends.”

~Joyce and Norman

## Jemma's family view...

"Thank you for this wonderful story. It's great to see this side of Jemma, which we don't always get to see. (Performing, taking leadership, working with friends and classmates, creativity.)

“The way you were able to work with them, bring out their creativity and enhance it as a solution to a potential problem is amazing. We are so happy to have this glimpse into Jemma's world in the classroom. And we want to see the play!”

“P.S. Love the title!”

~Davis and Julie

"I liked the play that I did." ~ Jemma

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Giddens School  
Seattle, Washington  
Sarah Gese, teacher

The Stuffed Animals  
and Fragile People  
Play

by TEMM

LORRY