



**Squeakers &**  
**MR. GUMDROP**



arts on the horizon  
Theatre for children 0-6 years old in Northern Virginia

# ABOUT THE SHOW

One snowy winter morning, Mr. Gumdrop prepares for his annual holiday party! When an unexpected and curious mouse appears, Mr. Gumdrop's routine is thrown for a loop. Can these two wildly different characters work together to get the holiday preparations done in time?

This nonverbal, imaginative production captures the magic of making new friends and sharing ideas to accomplish big goals.

## MEET THE CAST:



**DYLAN J. FLEMING**  
**SQUEAKERS**

is the curious mouse who is playful and quickly bounces from one activity to another!



**TORI BOUTIN**  
**MR. GUMDROP**

is very particular and likes to move at a slow and steady pace. He is excited to throw his holiday party!



**TESS HIGGINS**  
**MUSICIAN**

helps the story along by playing piano and an assortment of instruments!

# BEFORE THE SHOW

## A Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Conversation and Activity

ORAL LANGUAGE, INTERACTING WITH OTHERS, COOPERATIVE SKILLS, VISUAL PRODUCTION

### CONVERSATION

Mr. Gumdrop and Squeakers work together to prepare for a holiday party! The characters have to share and cooperate to get the job done. Children are learning to share and cooperate with their friends every day.

#### BEGIN WITH SOME OPENING QUESTIONS:

- ? *What does it mean to share?*
- ? *Do you like to work with your friends to play or to build something?*

### COOPERATION STATION

COOPERATIVE SKILLS, VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Work together as a class to create a block structure. Sitting in a circle on the floor, students will take turns choosing a block and placing it in the center of the circle to build something together.

#### WHAT DID YOU MAKE TOGETHER?

Take a picture of the block creation, print it out, and label it with the words the students generated about what they made. Create a **COOPERATION STATION** on the wall where you can hang pictures of work students have made by working together and sharing!

# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

MUSIC LITERACY AND PERFORMANCE,  
MOVEMENT AND LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, TACTILE SENSORY

To introduce the ideas of slow and steady versus quick and impulsive, give students a scarf or decorative holiday streamer and ask students to move their streamer/scarf and their bodies using the following prompts:



Can you move the streamer over your head slowly? Quickly?



Can you move the streamer in front of you slowly? Quickly?



Can you move the streamer in front of your knees slowly? Quickly?



Can you move the streamer all over slowly? Quickly?

# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

### Holiday Cookie Sorting

DATA COLLECTION, PATTERNS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Try this sorting exercise using containers, cardstock paper cookies, and tongs!

- Find kid-safe containers that resemble cookie jars in different colors or with different colored lids.
- Cut out several circles (cookies) from different colored cardstock sheets that match the cookie jars.
- Ask students to decorate the cookies using markers or crayons.
- Ask students to use the tongs to pick up cookies and sort them into the same colored cookie jars.

### EXPANSION

For older children, ask them to cut out the cookies with kid-safe scissors. They can make the cookies any shape they want and then decorate them! This is great for continuing to develop fine motor skills.



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## SENSORY SCIENCE EXPLORATION

### Ice Skating Sensory Play

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION, REASONING AND LOGIC, TACTILE LEARNING

Create your own sensory skating rink! Fill a shallow baking sheet with water and freeze. When the baking sheet is frozen, invite students to explore using small plastic figurines (animals, dinosaurs, etc) to ice skate on the frozen surface of the baking sheet.

As students play, ask them guiding questions: *What is ice made of? Is it hot or cold? What makes the ice melt?*

### EXPANSION

For a science experiment, ask students to join in the preparation process with you. Ask them to touch the water you are using and observe whether it is warm or cold. Then, time how long it takes for the ice to freeze and how long it takes to melt after the activity.



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## Visual ART

### Ice Cube Art

TACTILE LEARNING, VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND PRODUCTION

Fill ice cube trays with blue and white finger paint and freeze. Adding glitter to the finger paint makes it even more magical!

Once the paint cubes are frozen, pop them out, and encourage students to create their own snow-themed, process-driven artwork by holding the paint ice cube and swirling it on the paper. The paint will melt in the heat of the child's hands and create icy streaks across the paper in any way they want!



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## GROSS MOTOR & FINE MOTOR SKILLS

### Ice Fishing

LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, NON-LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, PATTERNS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Create an Ice Fishing Experience right in your classroom! You will need:

- A LARGE CARDBOARD BOX
- WHITE WRAPPING PAPER
- SCISSORS
- DOWEL ROD
- STRING
- MAGNETS
- FISH CUT-OUTS
- GLUE

Cut off the flaps of a large cardboard box and wrap it with white paper. Inside the box, place several fish cut-outs with paper clips glued to them. Then, create a fishing pole tying the string to a dowel rod. At the end of the string, attach another magnet. Then, ask students to lower the fishing pole down into the ice and try to catch a fish!

### EXPANSION

Once they have caught a fish, you can ask them to sort the fish into a matching colored container. You could even set this game up outside and place the container a good distance away from the ice fishing hole so students have to run to sort the fish and then run back.

# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## GROSS MOTOR & FINE MOTOR SKILLS

### Holiday Party Relay

LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, COOPERATIVE SKILLS

It's time to get ready for the party! This is a great activity for getting bodies moving outside.

**WE HAVE TO HELP SQUEAKERS AND MR. GUMDROP GET READY FOR THEIR HOLIDAY PARTY BY COLLECTING ALL THE PARTY SUPPLIES FROM THE STORE AND BRINGING THEM HOME!**

Ask students to line up behind a dot or line on the ground. There are two boxes set up: one on the opposite side of the space and one back at the line. Stock the farthest box with holiday party supplies (enough for each child to be able to grab one item). Ask the students to run to the box one at a time, grab a holiday item, and bring it home (to the box at the start). Once the box is filled up with supplies, we are ready to help Squeakers and Mr. Gumdrop set up their holiday party!



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## DRAMATIC & CREATIVE PLAY

### Holiday Party Play

PERFORMANCE, ARTISTIC AESTHETICS, LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, SELF-REGULATION, COOPERATIVE SKILLS

Use the party supplies gathered by the class to encourage students to work together in groups to set up their own Dramatic Play space. Along with the party supplies, use empty cardboard boxes to give students objects that are undefined and limitless as to what they can become. Give students the space to create their own world in which to play!



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## LANGUAGE ARTS & LITERACY

### Story Recall

ORAL LANGUAGE, LETTER KNOWLEDGE AND EARLY WORD RECOGNITION

Ask students to recall the beginning, middle, and end of *Squeakers and Mr. Gumdrop*. Create a storyboard together depicting what happened.

### “My Favorite Part...”

COOPERATIVE SKILLS, SELF-REGULATION, ORAL LANGUAGE

Use a winter prop such as a mitten or “snowball” (styrofoam white ball) to share our favorite parts of the play. Students must take turns passing the prop to each other in order to take a turn sharing their favorite part.

### EXPANSION

ORAL SKILLS, LOCOMOTOR SKILLS, PERFORMANCE

Ask students to use their bodies to act out their favorite parts of the show. For example, if a student says, “Squeakers was my favorite part”, ask them to show you what Squeakers looked like with their body. You can also ask the entire class to join them.



# RECOMMENDED READING

## WORKING TOGETHER & COOPERATION

*We Are Better Together* by Roger Priddy

*When Pencil Met Eraser* by Karen Kilpatrick

*Ella and Penguin Stick Together* by Megan Maynor

## FRIENDSHIP

*My Friend is Sad* by Mo Willems

*Big and Little are Best Friends* by Michael Garland

*Side by Side* by Rachel Bright

## SNOW

*Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner

*No Two Alike* by Keith Baker

*Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

## ICE SKATING & ICE FISHING

*Mice on Ice* by Rebecca Emberley

*A Promise is a Promise* by Robert Munsch

*Mice Skating* by Annie Silvestro

Squeakers & Mr. Gumdrop is sponsored by the Julia and Gilbert Merrill Foundation.

Additional support for Squeakers & Mr. Gumdrop is provided by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Children's Theatre Foundation of America, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts.



CTFA-CHILDREN'S THEATRE  
FOUNDATION

