Ages: 9-11

A family audio drama



75 min · indoors · all year round

Prep:

- Your own story - one scene lasting 2-3 minutes
- Objects for sound effects - 6-8
- Phone with a voice recorder
- Headphones
- A4 sheet - for the cue sheet

Step by step (~75 min):

1. Cut the story down to one scene: one setting, two or three characters and one event.
2. Plan it in two columns: dialogue and who says it on the left; sounds and who makes them on the right. This is your cue sheet.
3. Record a one-minute trial and listen through headphones. Many flaws are hard to hear through the phone speaker.
4. Mark three places: where a voice is unclear, a pause drags on or a sound drowns out the words. Fix no more than three at a time.
5. Re-record only the troublesome section, not the whole scene. Play it for someone who took no part, then compare what they understood with what you intended.

If it's not working: If the recording feels too long, keep one 2-3 minute scene with a clear beginning and end. Replace complex effects with your voice or a single object.

Playing together: A child aged 6-8 makes one sound effect; a child aged 9-11 puts the scene together in order; an older child manages the recording, volume and consent of everyone involved.

Make it your own: Make a news report from an imaginary world, a detective scene or a story told only through voices and three sounds.

Let's talk:

- "Where does the listener lose track of what is happening?"
- "Which sound does the story really need?"
- "What sounded different from how you expected it to sound?"

Stay safe: Record only people who have agreed to take part. Do not record other people's faces, conversations or personal information.

Why try this:

Your child plans a shared project, divides up roles and improves a recording based on what a listener heard. It is a chance to collaborate and review their own work thoughtfully.