



# ARTS INTEGRATION AT HOME

## *HOT SEATING*

Through these arts integration activities we want to offer a few simple, creative, educational, and arts-based ways to spice up your distance learning. The directions for the activity are shared in two ways - for caregivers/teachers and for kids who can read so they can do the activity independently. Have fun, and feel free to share what you do with us.

Tips for how to utilize these strategies:

- Use this strategy today, or print it out for a later date.
- Feel free to use a strategy more than once. Repetition will help students become familiar with the directions and then be able to take more ownership of sharing what they know through the activity.
- Play them for fun - you don't have to stick to talking about school information.

### **HOT SEATING**

Hot Seating allows kids to think from different perspectives and share their knowledge in a creative way. It is essentially an interview with a character, a famous person, or anyone else who the student might want to pretend to be.

Hot Seating is an activity that comes from the field of Creative Drama, where young people engage in theater activities to develop communication, awareness, empathy, problem-solving, a sense of self, and an understanding of theater. An important characteristic of creative drama is that it focuses on the experience and process as opposed to a final product or performance.

**Hot Seating** is credited to Drama Education scholars and teachers Jonathan Neelands and Tony Goode. You can see a longer description of the activity in the link below from the [Drama-Based Instruction](#) website created by Drama for Schools at The University of Texas at Austin.

Hot Seating: <https://dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/hotseating-0>

These activities are curated by Sarah Coleman, Portland Ovations' Director of Engagement | School Programs. Sarah is a theatre educator, an arts integration specialist, and a former classroom teacher who has taught students in grades K - college as well as led professional development workshops for teachers around the country for over 15 years.





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## *HOT SEATING*

### DIRECTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS/TEACHERS

Based on what the students are reading, learning about or interested in, have them pick a character, historical figure, planet, animal, number, country, etc. to play as. Next, have them determine why they are being interviewed, and where. (This creates [motivation](#), an important part of how actors learn how to portray a character.) They can get into “costume” using anything from a piece of clothing or a nametag. Have fun with this but know it’s also totally optional. Then, have the student take a seat and then interview them. Ask them questions about their subject that they know the answer to and ones that they can come up with informed answers to. Have fun!

If I were interviewing the planet Earth, I might ask...

1. What are you made up of?
2. What other planets are you near to?
3. You are here today because you’ve told me that there is a lot of pollution on your planet. How does this pollution make you feel? What do you wish the people who live on you would do about that?

### Tips!

- It might be helpful to guide the student to do a short brainstorm before they write questions or are interviewed. Have them write down what they know about the character’s background or characteristics of the animal, object, place, etc.
- Use the [Role on the Wall](#) activity to help with the brainstorm.
- Play along with your kid! Come up with a fun and silly interviewer. Just remember one of the important rules of improvisation - always make your partner look good.

### Follow up questions

1. What was easy about being interviewed? What was challenging?
2. How did it feel like to answer questions from the perspective of someone or something else?

*Follow up questions allow kids to practice [reflection and metacognition](#) (thinking about one’s thinking) both of which are key parts of effective learning.*





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## *HOT SEATING*

### DIRECTIONS FOR KIDS

*Today's at-home activity includes some acting which means you'll practice thinking from someone else's perspective. Who do you want to be?*

How to do this activity

1. Based on what you are reading, learning about, or interested in pick a character to pretend to be. This character could be a character in a book, a historical figure, a planet, an animal, a number, a country, etc.
2. Find a partner in your household that can read and talk.
3. Write up some questions that your partner can ask you about the character.
4. While they review the questions, you can find a piece of clothing or object to use as a costume (this part is optional)
5. Take a seat somewhere comfortable and have your partner interview you.
6. Answer the questions as the character you are pretending to be.
7. If your partner asks you a question that wasn't one you wrote down, or one you don't know the answer to, make an answer up. Think from the perspective of your character to come up with an answer that makes sense.

### Tips!

- If you are not sure how to answer questions as your character, take a few minutes to do some brainstorming. Write down what you know about your character's background or characteristics (if it's not a person). Do some research if you still have questions.
- Are you already a great actor? Get your partner to also play as any character, object, etc. Have a conversation between your character and their character to create an improvised scene. Just remember one of the important rules of improvisation - always make your partner look good.

After your interview, answer these questions.

What was easy about being interviewed? What was challenging?

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How did it feel like to answer questions from the perspective of someone else?

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