

**AAKASH
ODEDRA
COMPANY**



Photography by Angela Grabowska



**LITTLE MURMUR
Education Pack**

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Link to teacher resources on Dropbox

> [Link here](#)

INTRODUCTION

This pack includes a range of activity ideas to explore the themes within Little Murmur and information / support links on dyslexia - enabling wider learning around the performance. There are a range of methods to engage pupils through sensory exploration, discussion, watching, moving and reflecting, which can be used before and after the show.

Aakash Odedra Company was founded in Leicester in 2011 and is named after Artistic Director, Aakash Odedra. Aakash was born in Birmingham and lives in Leicester. He is a globally recognised and award winning dancer and choreographer. His choreography pushes boundaries, responding to and drawing inspiration from current issues. As a British Asian, Aakash Odedra uses his voice to translate ancient and contemporary movement languages to tell new stories.

Aakash Odedra Company has created Little Murmur for young people aged 7+, families and schools. Based on the original moving show Murmur, it is an honest and heartfelt conversation about the experience of living with dyslexia, retold for young audiences.

Aakash found school really difficult and was diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age. Dyslexia affects the way someone understands letters and words in reading, speaking and writing. Due to letters and words being difficult to understand and use, Aakash expressed himself through dance instead. It was important for Aakash to celebrate his abilities, like dancing, instead of being defined by the way he learned. In Little Murmur, Aakash explores his experiences and the common misunderstandings about dyslexia using light, sound, movement and visual design.

For all children studying KS2/KS3 level or similar.

Tasks within this pack support curriculum areas of Health and Wellbeing and Citizenship Learning through the key themes of:

- Identity
- Expression
- Learning methods

Tips for using this pack

Whether you have lots or no dance experience, this pack is designed to embrace pupils' individuality, allowing them to create their own movement content throughout. The pack provides a range of tasks that give pupils the freedom to explore, investigate and contribute to each theme. Throughout each task there are sensory suggestions provided which could be included within the lesson time or as its own additional task.

When leading pupils through the movement tasks, generally there is no right or wrong way! The focus should be on the process of exploring the movement and the experience of this rather than the end product.

Join in! Don't be afraid to try the tasks out for yourself, this will help you to understand what you're asking your pupils to do and often will help their engagement in the activity.

Throughout the pack you will find questions and instructions that you can ask your pupils in order to encourage their creativity. You can use these to help guide their movement and if you're up for it why not add in your own as the task unfolds. Pupils can surprise us in what they produce so don't be afraid to push this further if you see something that is working really well!

LESSON PLANS AND IDEAS

Lesson plans for *before* watching the performance

Lesson plan 1: **An introduction to dyslexia**

This lesson introduces pupils to dyslexia, bringing awareness to what this means and the effect of having this learning difficulty. The lesson includes a range of video resources, tasks and discussion points to explore this and develop pupils' understanding and acceptance of dyslexia.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

Lesson plan 2: **Introducing Little Murmur**

This lesson introduces pupils to Little Murmur, asking them to engage with a monologue from the performance to discuss the subject matter of dyslexia.

The lesson also provides access to the Little Murmur trailer for pupils to experience a snippet of the show allowing contextual discussion to help prepare them for the live performance.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

Lesson plans for *after* watching the performance

Practical lesson plan 1: “**Identity**”

This lesson asks pupils to explore their individual identity focusing on each person’s name and how they see themselves. This theme is explored throughout Little Murmur where Aakash realises that his name includes the letter ‘A’ twice at the start, and that he felt a sense of belonging and self-realisation because of this. For this task students will need access to craft materials to design their own name that will then be used as the starting point for the practical activity.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

Practical lesson plan 2: “**Expression**”

Pupils are encouraged to explore different ways of expressing feelings and emotions through physical, written and verbal methods. Within Little Murmur, themes of being restricted versus being free are demonstrated visually through images of birds, physical movement and spoken word. This allows the performance to use a range of modes to represent the feelings Aakash experienced. Pupils are asked to create their own performances through their movement exploration and written monologues.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

Practical Lesson plan 3: “**Exploring Confusion**”

This lesson encourages pupils to challenge themselves and think on the spot, asking pupils to reflect on when things feel confusing, backwards or hard to work out and how we navigate our way through that. Within Little Murmur the theme of dyslexia is explored, encouraging audience members to be aware and accepting of this. This task highlights to pupils how some people receive and absorb information differently.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources

- The British Dyslexia Association: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk
- Made By Dyslexia: www.madebydyslexia.org
- Identity for KS2: thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/remote-learning/pshce/

Reading List

- Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees
- The Sneeches by Dr. Seuss
- Feelings by Richard Jones and Libby Walden
- A Tale of Two Beasts by Fiona Robertson
- Why Am I Different by Norma Simon
- So, you think you've got problems? by Rosalind Birkett
- Dyslexia - Talking it Through by Althea
- Brian has dyslexia by Jenny Leigh
- My Little Brother by Chieko Tateno
- Dyslexia Explained – without the need for too many words by Nessay.com
- Dyslexia: A Teenager's Guide by Dr Sylvia Moody
- The Teenage Guide to Stress by Nicola Morgan

This pack was created and supported by:

- Michelle Catterson and the British Dyslexia Association
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Little Murmur was commissioned as part of Vital Spark. Vital Spark is a movement addressing the lack of diversity in the Performance for Young Audiences sector.

Find out more at thesparkarts.co.uk/vital-spark

Web: thesparkarts.co.uk

Facebook: @The Spark Arts for Children

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