



EXPLORING THE ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE WITH UNDER 5s

Ideas for Parents, Carers and Teachers

The Great Hall in the Royal Exchange Theatre building is an exciting place for young children – with coloured lights, hidden corners, a high ceiling and lots of space to move. Here are some ideas for exploring it with your child...

Have a walk around. Can you find...?

- The quietest place
- The noisiest place
- The highest place
- The most hidden place
- Your favourite place
- The place you like the least

Choose your favourite colour and explore the hall looking for it...

- Lie on the floor and look up. How many different colours can you see?
- In the Education lounge, see if you can find the special lighting gels which make everything change colour
- Dress up in a costume of your favourite colour – who can you be?

Listen carefully, can you hear a loud sound? Follow it and see where it leads...

Look for the shadows on the floor – can you see your own shadow? Can you make it move?

Walk in a big circle all the way around the Theatre module. What do you imagine is inside? If the blinds are open, you can have a peep in through the windows.

Can you find any pictures of the actors in the plays? Once you have found a picture that you like, make a statue standing like the actor. Do they look sad or happy? Can you imagine what they are saying?

Look inside the glass cabinets. What objects can you see? Where do you imagine they have come from? Make up a story about your favourite object.

Climb up the stairs to our Mezzanine Gallery, and look down – imagine you are a King or Queen waving at all the people below you.

Look out for the plaques on the floor. Imagine they are stepping stones and try to jump between them.

If there are rehearsals in the Theatre there will be signs letting you know which area you can't go into, and asking you to be quiet. Otherwise, feel free to explore!