



All-of-us Express Children's Theatre Tips for Auditioning



For many participants and families, an All-of-us Express Children's Theatre audition may be the first theatre audition you've ever been to. If that's the case, here are some tips to help you make the most of your audition!

- Keep your phone turned off to prevent any distractions (adults, too!).
- Read the lines with as much volume as possible. It's better to be too loud than too quiet.
- Make choices about characters when appropriate (e.g., accents, body movements, etc.) and commit to them!
- Read lines with emotion; make your audition as close to how a performance would be as possible.
- Add facial expressions, even when it's not your turn to speak! React to what's going on in the scene and to what the other auditioners are reading.
- Stand straight up and stand still. Do your best not to let your clothes, shoes, hair, or jewelry distract anyone—especially yourself!
- Wear clothes and shoes that are comfortable and appropriate to move around in. Avoid items such as skirts, high heels, and flip-flops as they will change and hinder your movement.
- Be confident about your performance even if you're unsure.
 - **PRO TIP:** Avoid looking to the Director(s) for approval—generally they will make little to no expression no matter what you do. This is important to remember, and doesn't mean they don't like what you're doing, they just want to treat everyone equally and not show positive or negative reactions.
- The directorial team is simply looking for how well you convey a character through emotion, volume, and movement. They are not concerned about what character you might be reading for. Don't worry if you're asked to read for a character of a different gender or for a role you might not want—it doesn't mean anything.
- There may be people auditioning with you who aren't as skilled at reading. The directorial team will help them if needed, so please be patient!
 - The flip side of this is that if you are the parent or guardian of a younger child or emerging reader, reassure them that older kids and grown-ups will be there to help them and they shouldn't be worried about the reading aspect of the audition.
- If it is not your turn to audition, please be quiet and courteous to the people ahead of you. Any noise, even in the hall, can be very distracting.
- Keep your script as far away from your face as possible. Keeping it too close will block a lot of your volume and prevent the directorial team from seeing your facial expressions.

- Be enthusiastic and energetic! You should always be showing that you are excited and happy to be here. It will make your performance even more convincing.
- Read slowly and enunciate.
- If you make a mistake, keep going! Don't be discouraged by a word you might not know how to say. The Director will tell you what it is. It is more important to remain in character and free of distraction than to pronounce the word exactly right.
- Skip over stage directions that may be in the middle of your lines. *(See below.)*
- Do your best and be yourself. Most importantly, have fun!

Sample Script Excerpt and a Few More Tips!ⁱ

[As lights come up, ALICE and GRYPHON re-enter the DL. The upstage C curtains have been opened to reveal the MOCK TURTLE, seated on a ledge by the seaside, sighing and weeping as if his heart were about to break. ALICE and GRYPHON pause DLC.]

ALICE. Why is he crying, poor fellow?

GRYPHON. It's all in his head. Come on! *[They go to the platform Where the TURTLE is sitting.]* This 'ere young lady, she wants to know your 'istory, she do.

TURTLE. *[A deep hollow voice]* I'll tell her. Sit down and don't speak a word till I've finished. *[They sit down at the base of the platform. The TURTLE rises and clears his throat.]* Once... I was a real turtle. *[Sighs]* When we were little, we went to school in the sea. The master was an old turtle—we used to call him Tortoise.

ALICE. Why did you call him Tortoise if he wasn't one?

TURTLE. We called him Tortoise because he was a teacher and he taught us. *[With asperity]* Really you are very dull!

GRYPHON. You ought to be ashamed of yourself for asking such a simple question.

TURTLE. Yes, we went to school in the sea, though you mayn't believe it –

ALICE. I never said I didn't –

TURTLE. You did!

GRYPHON. *[Before ALICE can talk]* Hold your tongue!

TURTLE. We had the best of educations. In fact, we went to school every day.

The setting (place and time the action is happening) will be described at the beginning of the scene.

Characters' names are usually in CAPITAL LETTERS to make them easy to spot.

Terms like "DL" and "DLC" in this sample refer to places on the stage. The Director will explain all of these terms during rehearsals!

You might see occasional words representing different accents, like 'ere for here or 'istory for history. Just do your best!

Stage directions are written in italics. You do not say these out loud! They give information about what the characters are doing, or how they sound.

New word? Don't worry! The Director will help with this during rehearsals.

ⁱ Excerpt from Alice in Wonderland, as adapted by Brainerd Duffield, copyright 1978