

Increase Minspeak & AAC Awareness through Theater

Theater, in the form of story telling or dramatic play, can be a powerful means to increase awareness of AAC and educate people on important issues. Theater is able to challenge personal and societal beliefs about individuals with complex communication needs by creating three-dimensional characters that can't be ignored or tuned out. Theater productions can approach the subject of AAC in ways that can be amusing, enlightening, and sometimes even convicting. As a tool for increasing Minspeak and AAC awareness, Theater Works!

In 1992, Carney, King, and Snead developed a play entitled "The Magic Box". It was originally written for a group of players that were doing a program with "*The Kids on the Block, Inc.*" in Georgia, USA. (*For more information, go to www.kotb.com*). It was later performed by a group of Regional Consultants from the Prentke Romich Company at an Annual Company Meeting in Wooster, Ohio, USA.

The play tells the story of a little girl whose dream of talking comes true when she gets her magic box. A dream, a talking dog, an evil witch "The Magic Box!"

Use "The Magic Box" ...

1. For an *AAC Awareness Day* at your school
2. At an AAC conference
3. With a parent's group
4. For a community-wide fund raiser
5. At a monthly meeting of therapists
6. With staff at a facility for adults with disabilities
7. In a classroom where a student using AAC is included