

Frog & The Princess Project - Rene Baker

The Frog & The Princess Project was a year-long collaboration between visual theatre director Rene Baker and Norwich Puppet Theatre, in which puppetry was used to help young children think about difference, prejudice, discrimination and acceptance.

Phase II of the project, supported by Arts Council England and Norfolk County Council, included:

- The creation of a touring performance for children aged 3-8 years called The Frog & The Princess to encourage children to think about issues of difference, prejudice, exclusion and acceptance.
- The development of a learning workshop in which children used puppets to explore issues and attitudes relating to difference.

In this re-telling of the traditional tale, the frog and the princess symbolised different cultures. Framed by situations from the original story, the characters began with prejudices about the 'other' but eventually discovered what they had in common and that friendship is possible despite being so different.

The project used puppetry to help children understand human behaviour and realise the impact of what they say and do. Children have a natural affinity with puppets and engaging with them - both as observers and as manipulators - helped children to put themselves in someone else's (ie the puppet's) shoes and empathise with their feelings.

Visit [The Frog & The Princess photo gallery](#) at Norwich Puppet Theatre for images from the production.

Visit [Rene Baker's website](#) for more information about her work.