

PEACE Signs

Educational Theatre Programs, a Community Benefit of Kaiser Permanente

Using the Power of Theatre to Prevent Violence

What is *PEACE Signs*?

The *PEACE Signs* program empowers students to increase the peace in their lives. A one-hour performance is the centerpiece of this multi-intervention program for upper elementary school students and the adults in their lives. During the show performer/educators use audience interaction, comedy, music, and dance to promote violence prevention and to teach the students a three-step conflict resolution model. Additional components reinforce the educational messages presented in the play.

What are the Program Components?

- 1. Principal and Teacher Orientations** facilitated by a health liaison introduce the program to the principal, participating teachers, and support staff. These orientations are held prior to the performance day.
- 2. The Performance** begins in a trashed school playground, where a teacher brings together four students to solve their problems peacefully and clean up the playground so it isn't closed down. The students are struggling with problems ranging from bullying and peer pressure, to domestic violence and the death of a sibling. As the students learn skills to deal with conflict, they transform the playground from a place where "fights happen" into a place where friends celebrate peace. Following the performance, the performer/educators facilitate a question and answer session with the students.
- 3. Workshops** for each class are led by Kaiser Permanente's performer/educators in the days following the performance. During the hour-long classroom session students use theatre games to practice conflict resolution techniques introduced in the performance.
- 4. Family Night** brings together families, teachers, and community agencies to watch a performance of *PEACE Signs*. This event includes a free dinner and information about community resources. At the end of the play students join the performer/educators on stage to perform a song from the play. Involving parents in *PEACE Signs* helps encourage use of violence prevention techniques at home. Live Spanish translation of the performance is available.
- 5. Educator Guides** provide follow up activities to help keep the messages of peace alive.



**PEACE
SIGNS**



Program Information

- Free of charge to schools and community groups
- A multi-intervention, school-based program centered around a one-hour theatrical performance
- Target audience: grades 3–6
- Program includes student workshops, teaching materials, and a special Family Night performance with a free dinner
- Additional support includes: teacher resources, posters, t-shirts, resource materials for parents, and partnership opportunities

What is the Program Objective?

PEACE Signs' objective is to help students, teachers, and parents resolve conflicts peacefully by:

- Inspiring people to make positive changes
- Encouraging families to model conflict resolution at home
- Providing schools with community resources
- Supporting teachers in creating a healthy learning environment



What are the Educational Objectives?

Students will learn:

- A three-step conflict resolution model
- How to identify feelings and develop empathy
- To use language to resolve conflicts
- To seek help from trusted adults

Community Partnership Opportunities

PEACE Signs can be expanded to include community partnerships. Kaiser Permanente bridges schools to local agencies that support violence prevention. Please contact our office for more information.

How do I get PEACE Signs for our Students?

If you meet the Performance Requirements, complete an application and return it to Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs. If you have questions, please call us at (877) 353-2223.

Why is Kaiser Permanente Offering PEACE Signs?

Kaiser Permanente is one of the nation's oldest nonprofit health care delivery systems. For over 60 years, we have worked to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. Educational Theatre Programs uses the magic of live theatre to engage and inspire audiences to make healthier choices. *PEACE Signs* demonstrates our commitment to violence prevention and fostering stronger neighborhoods.

What is the Response from Students, Parents, and Teachers?

"PEACE Signs taught us that resolving conflict peacefully actually works!"

– Student

"This program should be used as often as possible to reinforce the concepts of peace."

– Parent

"I learned not to call people names because you will hurt their feelings."

– Student

"I was in an abusive relationship and this really hit home! This program can help prevent young kids from becoming abusers."

– Parent

"The follow up workshops were fantastic! Other assemblies are always one day and that's it. The kids need repetition and practice."

– Teacher

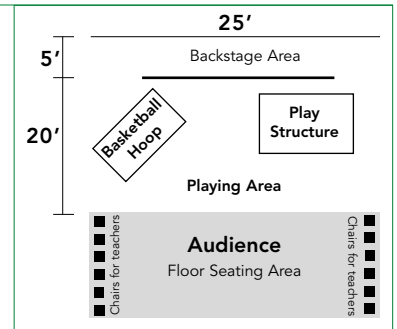


Diagram of the *PEACE Signs* performance space

What are the Performance Requirements?

- A minimum 25'w x 25'd x 12'h indoor performance area
- Access at ground level, by freight elevator or ramp
- A minimum of three electrical outlets
- Student seating on the floor in front of the performance area
- A minimum of 2 hours for set-up before the show and 1 hour for break-down after the show

Educational Theatre Programs:

- 1438 Webster St., Suite 205
Oakland, CA 94612
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- Website: kp.org/etp/ncal

