What is drama?
Drama is acting out. Drama is putting oneself in someone else's place and acting as he or she thinks the other person would act.

How does drama help children?
Drama helps children imagine how others think and feel. It helps them remember the sequence of events in a story. It helps them express their own feelings in an indirect way.

What are some forms of drama that can be used with children?

1. **Costume drama:** This is the best known, and perhaps the most popular, form of drama. Men's shirts, bathrobes, old sheets or crepe paper make simple costumes. Pillow cases or cloth scraps tied around the children's heads resemble the head coverings of Bible times. The children act out a Bible story, wearing the costumes to add authenticity.

   In acting out the story, the children act the parts and say the words of the Bible people. This actually calls for some imagination on the parts of the children. All dramas should keep as close to the actual Biblical accounts as possible, but the children will have to imagine the exact words and the expressions of the Bible people.

2. **Video-taped drama:** This is a more sophisticated form of the costume drama. The drama is filmed with a video camera.

3. **Silent movie:** Video camera is used to film the drama. The children's expressions and actions tell the entire story. A selection of recorded songs could be used to accompany the drama.

4. **Picture pose:** The children mimic the expressions and poses of people in a picture. They can use costumes, if desired. After the children have discussed the expressions and activities of the people in the picture, they assume the same poses. They remain as still as possible while someone repeats a Bible verse, plays a recording or sings a song that goes with the picture. This simple form of drama can be used in either the small or large group. It is particularly good for reluctant children or children who have had very little experience with drama.

5. **Acting out only the main part of the story:** This drama form is similar to picture posing. The children assume positions and expressions of characters in a Bible story. They remain as still as possible while the teacher begins telling the story. When the teacher gets to the most important part of the story (the part that stresses the truth taught by the story), the children act out this portion of the story. Then they resume their positions while the teacher completes the story. The advantages to this form of drama are: 1) the drama is quicker to prepare; 2) the children do not become so entangled in the small details of the story that they forget the Bible truth that is taught; and 3) the main Bible truth is spotlighted.

6. **Puppets:** Acting out stories with puppets is a popular drama form. Puppets can be made from a variety of materials, including lunch bags, paper plates, socks or individual cereal boxes. A reluctant child may find puppets a more comfortable form of drama than most other forms. The child is hidden behind the stage. (This can be a table turned on its side.) The words of the drama can be pre-recorded if the children prefer.

7. **Pantomime:** A pantomime is a drama without words. The children must rely on their expressions and actions to tell the entire story. This type of drama also appeals to a reluctant child.

8. **Musical drama:** This is a drama that consists entirely or partially of songs. The children sing their parts to tunes they make up, or they include songs in the script of their drama. For example, a character in a drama might say, “We talked about friends in Sunday School today. I'll sing a song for you that we sang in Sunday School.” The character could then sing a song about friends.
9. **Acting out pictures:** The children study a picture. They notice the expressions and activity of the people in the picture. They then act out the scene in the picture.

   Another form of this drama is to decide what happened immediately before or after the picture. The children act out this scene.

10. **Acting out ways to obey Bible verses:** A Bible verse is read and discussed. The children act out scenes where the verse could be remembered or obeyed. A child could pantomime a way to obey a verse, and the other children could guess what he or she is pantomiming.

11. **First person monologue:** A monologue is a drama presented by one person. A child pretends he or she is a Bible person and tells a story as if he or she had been present when it occurred. This is a good form of drama for adults to use with children. An adult can dress in a Bible costume and tell a story in first person to a group of children. The adult should be sure that the children know who he or she really is at the close of the story.

12. **Dramatizing a song:** The children act out what is happening in a song while the song is being played.

13. **Role play:** The teacher presents the children with a situation or problem. He or she does not give the children an ending or solution for the situation. The children decide on an appropriate ending and act out the ending or the entire situation.

14. **Choral reading:** This form of drama involves groups of children speaking in unison and solo parts. The children read a Bible passage, a poem, the words to a song, or something they have written themselves. The group assigns each part of the reading to a particular child or group. The group then presents the reading.