Dear Teacher,

I am delighted to be working with Tina Williams, the Artistic Director (and founder) of the Pied Piper Theatre Company. Their productions bring a wonderful experience of theatre to young children in school. Having been asked to help with the 'Education Pack' that has been an integral part of a Pied Piper production, I thought it would be appropriate to review what the pack provides in an effort to ensure that it is still relevant and useful to busy teachers trying to develop creative learning.

Although retired as a Head Teacher, I am still involved in Education and know how the pressures of curriculum and assessment change are impacting upon teachers and how they plan and assess learning experiences for their pupils.

There is a wealth of simple classroom activities that directly link to 'Town Mouse and Country Mouse' from websites such as www.twinkl.co.uk. Therefore, I have tried to make the Education Pack reflect more closely the creative learning and problem solving that is happening in schools and to provide models and prompts for ways in which you can link the theatre experience with other curriculum domains.

The ideas for learning activities in the pack are linked to Bloom's Revised Taxonomy (2002). It provides a classification of intellectual behaviour that is important to learning. The taxonomy is being used as a tool in current developments in curriculum and assessment (See 'Beyond the Levels: alternative assessment approaches developed by Teaching Schools' research report 2014, published by the National College of Teaching and Leadership).

This diagram illustrates the different categories of thinking. Remember, Understand and Apply are the 'Lower Order' thinking skills and Analyze, Evaluate and Create are 'Higher Order' thinking skills. Although there is a hierarchy, to teach something you do not necessarily need to start with the 'Lower Order'. The ideas in the pack are 'springboards' for you. The verbs in bold type link directly to the different levels of Bloom's Taxonomy – it may help to write Learning Objectives.

It will be interesting to get any feedback, if you have time!

Caroline Herlihy

THE PIED PIPER THEATRE COMPANY