



Summer Academy 2025 Teaching Assistant Application

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Current Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Are you currently attending college? _____

YES _____

NO _____

Name of School/University _____

Area of Study _____

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Please list any experience you have teaching in a classroom setting: (or attach a resume)

What grades would you prefer to teach? K4-2nd _____ 3rd-4th _____ 5th-12th _____

Please list which subjects interest you most: _____

Please fill in when and where you are available with the location codes listed below.

Note: Academy day runs 9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday

6/16-6/20	6/23-6/27	6/30-7/3	7/7-7/11	7/14-7/18	7/21-7/25	7/28-8/1	8/4-8/8	8/11-8/15	8/18-8/22

Next Steps Next Steps

Which locations would you be interested in working at?

- ___ Milwaukee Youth Arts Center
- ___ Sharon Lynne Wilson Center
- ___ Oak Creek Performing Arts and Education Center
- ___ Concordia University of Wisconsin
- ___ UW-Parkside

Have you been an Academy Student in the past? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, when did you attend? _____

A TA position at First Stage means assisting in the curricular goals of the class and making sure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. It is your responsibility to allow the young artists a place where “I can’t” is NOT in their vocabulary, where they CAN take risks, where they can conquer their fears and where they can lead. The best way to accomplish this is by following those same guidelines in your work. Thank you for your interest in First Stage!

Please email (jtbackes@firststage.org), mail or fax the completed TA Application with a HEADSHOT/RESUME to:

First Stage Theater Academy – Attn: J.T. Backes
325 W. Walnut Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212
Fax (414) 267-2976

Summer Class Descriptions:

Story Drama (K4-1 grade)- Bring exciting tales to life through dramatic play! Young people begin to develop their actor tools of body, voice, and imagination by actively engaging in creative play, all while strengthening their ability to focus, cooperate with others, and solve problems. Themes: *Marvelous Mo Willems*, *Bluey's Big Adventure*, *Adventures in the 100 Acre Woods*, *All Aboard the Magic School Bus*, *Dragons Love Tacos and Parties*, *Friends from Every Habitat*, *Enchanted Ever After*, *Outer Space and the Stars!*

Playmakers (1-2 grade)- Young actors will go on a new adventure each week as they utilize creative thinking as a group to further develop their beginning acting skills. Students will work as a group to pull inspiration from popular themes, create their own stories, and act them out together! Themes: *Villains in Disguise*, *Mysteries of the Smurf Forest*, *Dog Man: Bark of the Beast*, *Chief Bogo's Recruits*, *Galactic Guardians*, *Marvel Multiverse Madness*, *Dinosaur Park: The Lost World*, *Heihei and Pua's Island Antics*

Voice/Speech (3-4 grade) -Imagine, enact and reflect upon improvised situations. Through this process students come to understand theater, themselves and the world around them.

Scene Study (3-4 grade)- Dive into a script while you put your acting skills to work bringing the characters on the page to life on the stage.

Musical Theater (3-12 grade)- Increase versatility and work on new vocal and dance techniques while exploring the art of telling stories through words, music, and movement.

Acting Theory (5-12 grade)- Explore characters, relationships, action and text while developing overall acting skills and confidence.

Improvisation (5-12 grade)- Use of character and scene improvisational exercises develop expressiveness, spontaneity, effective partnering and honesty on stage.

Voice/Movement (5-12 grade)-Use of speaking techniques increases relaxation, resonance, articulation and projection. Use of movement techniques—including mime, dance, circus and combat—enhances balance, agility, stage presence, awareness and focus.

Shakespeare (5-12 grade)- Students explore text, character and styles in scenes and monologues from Shakespeare.

Next Steps (3-12 grade)- Using research-based best practices, Next Steps serves young people through our philosophy of teaching life skills through stage skills. We strive to help each student take their next steps as an artist and a person. First Stage creates a safe space for all students to be creative and be themselves without judgment or fear of failure. Guided by our philosophy of teaching life skills through stage skills, students will experience the joy of theater each day with a team of teaching artists and special education professionals.

We serve both verbal and non-verbal students, students with classic autism, PDD-NOS, and other sensory processing disorders. With small class sizes, our curriculum explores acting, singing, dancing and improvisation, through which students improve social understanding, fine and gross motor skills, empathy, conversation skills, public speaking and confidence.