



## HELLO PARENTS,

Puppetry is an art form that has been entertaining children and adults alike for thousands of years. There are many different kinds of puppets: some puppets are small and fit on a child's finger, while others are large and use the entire hand or body to animate; marionettes are moved around by strings, and shadow puppets use light and shadow projections to create characters on a screen. Participating in puppet play not only supports children's oral language skills and communication, social interaction and emotional development, but also helps them learn about and understand the world around them through imaginative play. In this newsletter, you will find ideas to engage your child in creative play with puppets.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

#### PLAY WITH A PUPPET

##### MATERIALS:

- Soft puppets

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Hold a puppet on your hand and make eye contact with your child.
- Softly touch your child with the puppet and sing or talk at the same time.
- Wait for your child to respond.
- Continue back-and-forth doing this activity.

[Click here](#) for more activities for puppet play.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### HIDE AND SEEK WITH PUPPETS

##### MATERIALS:

- A few puppets
- Various small objects such as balls, crayons, Legos, toys, etc.

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Place a few puppets on the floor or table.
- Hide various small objects inside the puppets.
- Have your child explore the puppets and discover the hidden objects.

[Click here](#) to read aloud "Hop on Pop" by Dr Seuss with a puppet.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### PAPER BAG PUPPET

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper bags (lunch bag size)
- Glue or tape
- Art materials to decorate the bag (yarn, markers, crayons, googly eyes, pom-poms, etc.)

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child decide what type of puppet they will make (an animal, a person, an insect, etc.).
- Show your child how to use the paper bag as a puppet by inserting your hand into the opening of the bag and using the bottom flap as the face of the puppet.
- Allow your child to choose how to decorate the puppet using various art materials.
- Once the puppet is created, start having fun by using the puppet to tell a story or sing a song.

[Click here](#) for more ideas to make puppets.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE

##### MATERIALS:

- A wall
- A table lamp or bedside lamp

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Choose a blank wall and place the table lamp in front of the wall.
- Shine a bright light against the wall.
- Put one of your hands between the light and the wall so that you can clearly see the shadow of your hand.
- Change the shape of your hand to make animals, birds and other characters come to life.
- If you need more ideas about hand shadows, [click here](#) to learn how to create simple hand shadow puppets.
- The more you practice, the more ideas you will get. You can even invent new shadow puppets.

[Click here](#) to enjoy the hand shadow clipart gallery.

[Click here](#) to watch the shadow puppet film "The 3 Little Piggies".

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### MAKE A SNAKE MARIONETTE

##### MATERIALS:

- 2 x 12 cup egg carton
- Long string
- Long stick
- Glue
- Paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paint or markers

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Start by cutting out each single egg cup. Trim them down so they will fit into one another snugly.
- Carefully, make a small hole in the centre of each cup so you can string them together.
- Cut a piece of string (about 75cm long) and thread it through each cup (you can wrap a small piece of tape at the end of the string to make threading easier).
- Use paint or markers to decorate the cups – this will be the snake's body.
- Draw eyes on the first cup. Cut a long tongue and stick it on.
- Now cut four pieces of string, about 30-45cm each.
- Tie a piece of string at equal intervals along the snake's body.
- Attach the top part of each string to the stick.
- Hold the stick and move your snake marionette by pulling on the strings.
- Your snake marionette is ready for some puppeteering!

[Click here](#) to find more ideas from professional puppeteers.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR  
SUGGESTIONS TO [CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG](mailto:CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG)

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Make character puppets from your child's favourite books and act out their adventures.
- Practice reading with puppets or have the puppets tell a story.
- Play games such as "Simon Says" and "I Spy" with the puppet as the leader.
- Have your child role-play situations from different perspectives to help them understand different points of view.