

A Change of PACE: Puppetry Crafts Tutorial

These instructions are intended to go alongside the Puppetry Craft Tutorial video, where you can watch and follow along with both examples being made, and see some drama exercises that your child can try out with the finished puppets.

Please ensure your child is supervised while taking part in these activities, particularly when using scissors. Be aware of choking hazards when using glue, pens and other craft materials.

Enjoy!

Part 1: Animal Hand Puppet



A simple hand puppet that works well decorated to look like an animal. The example in the video is a pig.

Materials:

- 1x piece of A4 paper or card for the main shape of the puppet
- 1 to 2 pieces of additional paper or card for the details (eyes etc.)
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Selection of Colouring Pens/Pencils or Paints

Method:

1. Begin with the piece of paper or card you will be using to create the main shape of the puppet. Place it on a flat surface, in a landscape position (longer edges at the top and bottom, shorter edges at the sides)
2. Fold the short edges at the sides of the paper/card towards each other into the middle. Arrange them so they are touching, try to avoid one side overlapping the other. Once happy with their position press down on the sides to fold them securely.
3. Fold one half of the paper over the other, to create one long strip.
4. Fold the strip in half, by folding one of the short sides over to line up with the other.

5. Both shorter sides should have open ends. Locate one of the shorter sides and fold this in half going back on itself so that the open side is now in line with the closed fold. Repeat for the other open side.
6. Squeeze the open sides, this should create a pocket on either side of the main fold. Place thumb into one pocket and the rest of the hand into the other side, the main shape of the hand puppet is complete. It can be manipulated by opening and closing the hand, as though the puppets mouth is opening.
7. Decorate the puppet. Draw shapes for the eyes, nose and any other feature such as teeth, ears, hair, spots, whiskers etc. and carefully cut out. Always ensure your child points the scissor blades away from themselves while cutting, working slowly so that they have good control over the scissors.
8. Glue cut out features onto one of the outer panels of the puppet's body. This will become the puppet's face.
9. Place a piece of paper next to the lower part of the puppet's mouth, where you will place the tongue. Use the size of the puppet's mouth as a rough guide for the puppet's tongue.
10. Draw and cut out the desired shape for the puppet's tongue.
11. Glue the tongue into the lower part of the puppet's mouth.

Well done! You've just created your very own hand puppet!

Drama Tasks:

- Give your puppet a name, and experiment with different voices for your puppet. You could try: high or low, fast or slow, loud or quiet etc.
- Decide on something your puppet loves, and something your puppet hates. Then you can have a go of having your puppet introduce itself; using your puppet's voice, and using your hand to open and close its mouth. Have your puppet say its name and tell the audience what it loves and what it hates. From there you can add more to develop a really fantastic performance.

Top Tip: Try having a conversation with your child's puppet to help them develop their ideas. Ask them questions about their likes and dislikes, special talents, favourite foods etc.

Part 2: Articulated Dragon Puppet



A dragon puppet created from folded paper and lollipop sticks, with lots of scope for your child to decorate its head, tail and body. Could also be adapted to become a slithering snake or wiggling worm.

Materials:

- 1x piece of A4 paper or card for the dragon's body
- 1x piece of A4 paper or card for the dragon's head and tail
- 2x lollipop sticks
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Selection of Colouring Pens/Pencils or Paints

Method:

1. Begin with the piece of A4 paper you will use for the puppet's body. Place it on a flat surface, in a landscape position (longer edges at the top and bottom, shorter edges at the sides)
2. Fold the paper in half widthways, folding over one of the long edges to meet the other.
3. Cut along the crease formed down the middle of the piece of paper, creating two long strips.
4. Create a concertina style fold by folding back roughly 2cm of the paper at one of the short edges of the first strip. Continue to fold it backwards and forwards, gathering in more paper each time until the whole strip has been folded up. When you unfurl it the paper should have a zig-zag effect. Repeat for the other strip of paper.
5. Glue a short end of one of the strips to a short end of the other, to create one very long zig-zag/concertina strip. This forms the body of our puppet.
6. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the piece of A4 paper intended for the dragon's head and tail, so that you have two long strips.
7. Set one of the strips aside. Fold the remaining strip in half, short edge to short edge.
8. Cut along the crease formed in the middle of the strip. You should now have two quarters of the A4 page, one will make up the head and the other will make up the tail.

9. Use a pencil or pen to draw the shape of the dragon's head on one piece, and the shape of its tail on the other. Start each shape as wide as the piece of paper, this way it should fit nicely with the dragon's body when attached.
10. Cut out the shapes for the head and the tail and decorate. Your child can decorate these any way they like; encourage them to be creative with different colours and patterns. Help your child place and draw on the dragon's eye –the bigger the better as the eye is useful when using it for performance/play.
11. Place glue on the side of the head and tail which will be attached to the dragon's body. A large portion of the head and tail will protrude over the end of the dragon's body.
12. Take the lollipop sticks and decide where to place them on the back of the dragon's body. These will be used to hold up and manipulate the puppet. Avoid placing the sticks directly in the middle of the body, or right at the ends of the body. The third "panel" from the outer sides of the body is a good rough placement.
13. Place glue halfway down one side of each lollipop stick and glue onto the back of the puppet's body (the side that will face away from the audience). Ensure there is enough lollipop stick length sticking out at the bottom of the body for your child to hold the sticks in order to move the puppet.
14. Take some scraps of paper from creating the head and the tail and cut two strips wide enough to cover the section of each lollipop stick which is glued to the puppet.
15. Glue one strip over the portion of each lollipop stick which is attached to the puppet. This reinforces the sticks so that they are less likely to come off when the puppet is in use.

Well done! You have just created a movable dragon puppet!

Drama Tasks:

- Encourage your child to experiment with ways to move the dragon to express its feelings and emotions e.g. it may bounce when it is happy, and hang its head low if it is feeling sad.

Top Tip: A fun way to play with the dragon puppet is to put on some music and see if your child can move the dragon as though it is dancing along to the beat. You can also use this to reinforce exploring emotions/feelings by playing happy songs/sad songs/dramatic classical music/slow or fast songs etc. Soundtracks from film, and music from ballet can be great for this (for example, the main theme from Pirates of the Caribbean, or The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy from the Nutcracker).