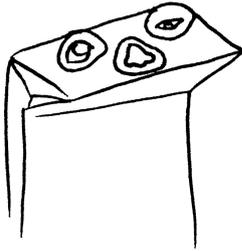


Puppets

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Social-Emotional

What You Need:



- Small paper bag
- Felt, construction paper, or fabric scraps
- Scissors (for adult use only)
- White glue (such as Elmer's Glue®**) or glue stick
- Jumbo crayons or washable markers

What To Do:

1. Cut out shapes for eyes, eyebrows, a nose, and a mouth from paper, felt, or fabric scraps.
2. Help your child glue the cutouts to the bottom of the paper bag, making sure the bottom flap is positioned to be the mouth. Do not glue down the bottom flap of the bag. (Your child could also draw in the facial parts instead of gluing cutouts.)
3. Ask him to name each facial feature on the puppet and point to the same feature on his face.
4. Show him how to put his hand into the bag and move his fingers in the bottom flap to make his puppet talk.
5. Make several puppets and create a puppet show together. Encourage him to be the voice for his puppet while you do the same.
6. Engage in a conversation with your child's puppet, asking questions that will help him create an identity for his new creation, for example, "What is your name?" or "What do you like to do?"



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VARIATIONS:

1. Carefully cut a one-inch hole in the bottom of a paper cup. Tell your child that he can put his finger through the hole to be the puppet's nose. Ask him either to draw a face around the hole or to cut out shapes from construction paper for eyes and ears to glue onto the cup. For example, he might make an elephant face with two large ears and eyes around the hole. Show him how to put his hand in the decorated cup and poke his finger through the hole. He can wiggle his finger and pretend it is the elephant's trunk.

2. Use an old sock for a puppet. Glue eyes and a nose on the bottom of the sock, or draw them in with a marker. Show your child how to slip the sock over his hand and move his fingers to make his puppet "talk."

! Safety Alert: Adult-size scissors are not safe for young preschoolers. Let your child practice cutting with child-safety scissors that have rounded tips and safety blades. Monitor your child as she uses the scissors. If you do not have child-safety scissors or the paper is too thick for your child to cut, do the cutting yourself. Discuss the dangers of moving around with a scissors in hand.

** Use of brand names is for informational purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the Learning to Grow Project.

