

TIPS FOR MAKING PUPPETS AT HOME

Puppet making is very easy to do using common household items. The younger your child the simpler the puppet should be. These tips will give you ideas on materials you and your child can use to make puppets together.

- **Paper bag puppets:** brown or white lunch bags can be used to make simple hand puppets. For very young children a paper bag and some crayons are all they need. Show your child how to put his hand inside to make the puppet "talk". Older preschoolers can use a variety of collage materials such as fabric, feathers, and buttons to decorate their paper bag puppets. (Be careful not to glue the bag bottom to the side of the bag or the puppet won't be able to open its mouth!)
- **Stick puppets:** paper plates and Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors can make a variety of puppets. The plates can be cut into different shapes, or can be left as they are and decorated. All you need to do is glue a stick on the bottom of the plate to begin your puppet show! This method is great for making puppets to tell a story such as *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. Each stick puppet can be a different animal that goes to hide in the mitten.
- **Sock puppets:** clean white or colored socks make great hand puppets. Put the sock on your hand and your child's hand to see where the face should go. Then glue on buttons and yarn to make a face. Another idea is to stuff the sock with cotton balls and tie with yarn around several sections to make a caterpillar.

Once you've made your puppets it's time to put on a show. A puppet theater can be as simple as the back of a sofa. A small table covered in a sheet or blanket can also serve as a puppet theater. Now all your child needs is *you* as the audience and the fun begins!