

Sensory activity by Sarah-Grace

Making and using puppets

There is research to suggest that many pupils can find it easier to engage and interact with a puppet. Many pupils view puppets as being more like a peer than an adult, teacher, parent or carer. With a face that is not as complex as a humans, many pupils find instructions simpler to follow, may be willing to act out how they feel through the puppets and are able to develop self-confidence to express themselves.

Here are some fun and easy ways to make some puppets. Many of them are appropriate for a tactile, sensory learner.

Why not use the puppets to tell a story, sing a song or give an instruction?

Sock puppet



These can be very easy to make with some drawn-on felt tip eyes and a smile but added wool for hair and securely fastened googly eyes can bring the puppet to life.

Walking finger puppets



Easy to make with paper and felt tips, these walking finger puppets can be used to help develop fine motor skills too.

Fish sock puppets



Filling old socks (no holes!) with rice and tying the ends securely can make wonderful tactile puppets. I have made them before and added a drop or two of essential oil such as lavender to them as well. They can also be warmed for a short amount of time (roughly 20 seconds depending on power of microwave).

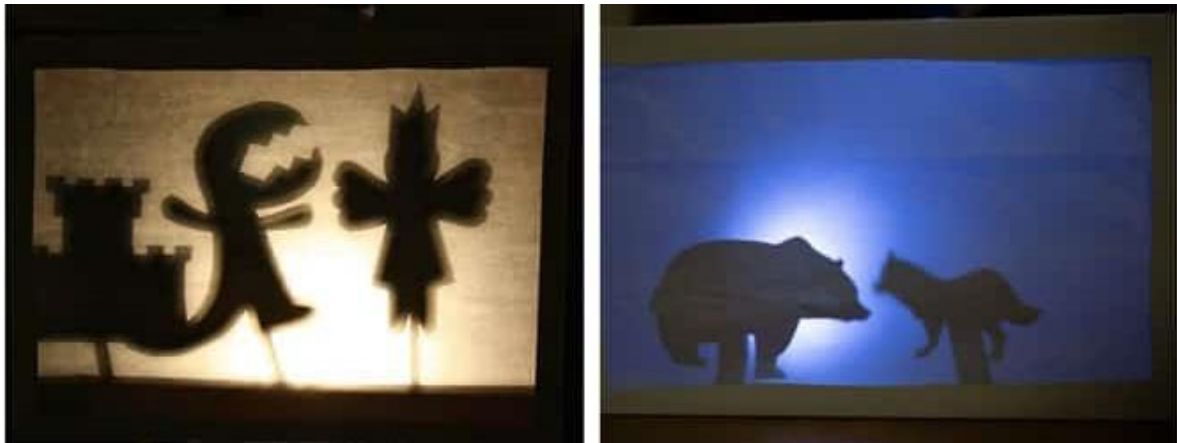
Washing up gloves



Using a sharpie pen, washing up gloves can be transformed into some wonderful characters!

Shadow puppets

Cut out of dark paper or card these work really well held against a white piece of paper or sheet with a torch shining on them.



Or why not try some using your hands? (see next page)

