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Creating Puppets

There are many materials you can use to create puppets. Below you will find five different types of puppets and directions for their creation. Some will incorporate the patterns supplied in this book, and others can be made easily with household or classroom items.

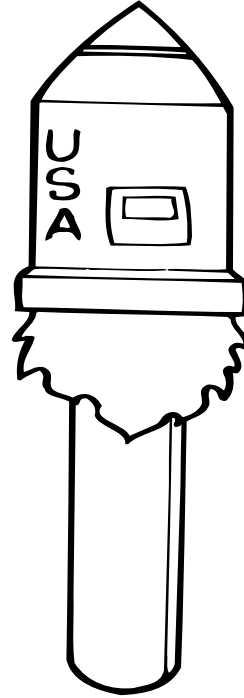
Stick Puppets

Patterns for stick puppets can be copied onto heavy cardstock or cardboard, cut out, and decorated. Some teachers like to laminate the pieces. The cutouts can then be attached to craft sticks, tongue depressors, paint stirrers, or yardsticks for easy accessibility.

Mini stick puppets can be made by attaching stickers to craft sticks.

Don't forget about wooden spoons. Faces can be drawn or glued onto them to create almost instant puppets.

Note: When telling the story, whoever is designated to hold the puppet holds onto the item (type of stick) to which the pattern was attached.



Pop-Up Puppets

The element of surprise is a valuable attention-getting device in the early childhood classroom. Use a cylinder (paper tube), coffee can, Styrofoam[®] cup, or paper cup for the base of the pop-up puppets.

Poke a hole in the center of the base and insert a craft stick, sturdy straw, or dowel. Attach an old doll head (or a head created from a Styrofoam ball wrapped with yarn or covered with nylons) to the dowel.

Use a glue gun to attach the head to the dowel if the dowel cannot be pushed into the head. For added interest, decorate the handmade head with yarn, fabric, etc.

Five Little Mice

(Place the tree, the picnic basket, the sun, and the blanket on the flannelboard.)

**Five little mice were happy as could be,
Having a picnic beneath a great tree.**

(Place the family of mice at the picnic scene.)

**Papa Mouse rose and went to the shore,
Far away he walked, and then there were four.**

(Show Papa Mouse walking across the flannelboard and off.)

**Mama Mouse nibbled and then went to see
Where he had gone, and then there were three.**

(Remove Mama Mouse from the scene.)

**Big Brother Mouse couldn't find his new shoe,
He went to look for it and then there were two.**

(Remove Big Brother Mouse from the scene.)

**Little Brother Mouse wanted
to play and have fun.**

**He ran, and he hid, and then
there was one.**

(Show Little Brother scurrying across the flannelboard and off.)

**Little Sister Mouse, alone in
the sun,**

Searched for her brother.

(Show Little Sister Mouse looking around and then remove her from the scene.)

Then there were none!



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Use the patterns on pages 52–55 to create the tree, the mouse family, the sun, and the picnic basket.
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