

## Activity

## PUPPET PLAY

Design and make your own puppets to perform in their very own play!

What should I do?

Make your puppets

There are lots of different ways of making puppets. Ask a parent or friend or teacher for some ideas, if you like.

A really simple one is to draw an animal or human character on stiff card – you could use a cereal box or other scrap piece - and cut it out, then tape a drinking straw, pencil or pen to the back of it to make a puppet on a stick:



If you don't want to draw your own, you could print off pictures from the internet, or find and cut some out from magazines, etc.

Design and make **at least two** puppets to star in their very own play. (You need at least two so they can talk to one another.)

Play with your puppets

Play with your puppets and get them to have some conversations with one other. Can you make up a short story about your characters and act it out?

- How do they know each other?
- What are their lives like?
- What sort of personalities do they have?
- What do they want?
- Why happens to them? What do they do about it?
- How do they feel at different points in the story?

Practise the story a few times until you are sure you have a good play with a clear beginning, middle and end.

Performance

Once you have properly rehearsed, perform your puppet play to an audience. Can you make them laugh and cry and jump and gasp in all the right places? You may even want to design theatre tickets to invite people to your play.

Share your work

How might you share your work with your friends and your teacher(s)? Can you film yourself play, or take photographs, then email or upload to a shared area?

You can tweet what you've been up to using the Twitter handle @BabcockLDPEng and the hashtag #BabcockEnglishAtHome.

**IMPORTANT: If you decide to share your finished work publicly, just remember everything you have been taught about staying safe online, and do check with the person who looks after you before posting anything.**

Things that  
could help me

Ask an adult for some help to make your puppets, if you need it.

Change it up!  
...Go further!

- A) Once you have made up your story and got your puppets to perform, why not write their conversation as a play script? Write a character's name on the left, followed by what they say. Start a new line every time a new person speaks. You can include some stage directions if you like to tell anybody wanting to act out this play how the characters should move. You may want to put these in brackets, e.g.

WIZARD FRY: *(waving his magic wand wildly)* I've told you a thousand times not to go into those woods, Keya!

KEYA: *(laughs)* Oh, Fry, don't be such a silly old worrywart! Everybody knows there aren't really dragons and monsters in there.

*There is a low rumbling sound and a puff of smoke in the distance, from deep inside the forest.*

WIZARD FRY: *(frowning)* Just because nobody's seen a dragon for years, it doesn't mean they're not there. *(Sighs)* Please, Keya, just do as you're told for once in your Royal life!

- B) Can you persuade somebody else to make up a new puppet and have them join yours to act out another scene, or a whole new story?

Notes for  
parents and  
teachers

There are lots of ideas and instructions online for making all manner of puppets. Many are designed for parents and teachers, though, so aren't suitable to give to children if expecting them to work independently. Why not read some of the ideas yourself first and then explain them to your child in a way you know he or she will understand?

There are some good suggestions for easy-to-make finger puppets from Mencap Cymru's [Get Arty!](https://wales.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-03/Download_A4%20Activity%20Pack%201%20-%20Finger%20Puppet_0.pdf) here: [https://wales.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-03/Download\\_A4%20Activity%20Pack%201%20-%20Finger%20Puppet\\_0.pdf](https://wales.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-03/Download_A4%20Activity%20Pack%201%20-%20Finger%20Puppet_0.pdf)

Red Ted Art has a simple mouse finger puppet tutorial on YouTube: [How to make a Paper Mouse Finger Puppet - Paper Mice Crafts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).