

ACTIVITY PAGES

Shadow Puppetry – Make shadow puppets and create a performance!!

Material Needed to Create Puppets

- Cardboard: “poster board” or railroad board (6-8ply is best), or manila folders
- Cutting instruments: scissors, exacto-blades, mat knives for cutting shapes and details (be sure a grownup is supervising and helping!)
- Monofilament (fishing line) for making moving parts (optional)
- Dowels, sticks or wire to support puppets (popsicle sticks or chopsticks work great)



To Create Your Shadow Puppets

Your puppets don't have to be human; they could be animals, plants objects, or anything you want! Use your imagination...

- Draw or trace the shape you want your puppet to be. Remember, your puppet should be smaller than the shadow will look if you are front-projecting onto a wall.
- Cut your outline out of rigid poster board or cardboard, and attach a stick to hold it.
- For more complex puppets, cut out facial details or attach moving limbs by stringing the fishing line through both parts of the moveable joint (elbow, knee, shoulder, etc), then attach another stick to the limb to control its movements.
- Set up your Screen: see “Materials Needed to Create Projection Screen” above, OR you can use the shadow puppets between a light source and a white wall for the front projection technique.

Lights and Action – Bring your puppets to life!

Your puppets are now the actors! *Experimenting and practicing* with creative ideas are the best tools for learning to play in shadows. Play with the following ideas and questions:

- How do your shadow characters talk, gesture, walk, fly, or tell a story?
- What are their relationships and how can you show this through their movements?
- How can you use music, sound effects, and/or narration to tell the story and set the mood of the play?

Contribution towards this activity and photos provided by ShadowLight Productions