

Shape Puppet Adventure!

Get ready for a super fun adventure where we'll use shapes to make our very own puppets and then put on a show!

Part 1: Shape Exploration (10-15 minutes)

1. Shape Introduction:

- Lay out some pre-cut shapes (circles, squares, triangles, rectangles).
- "Look at all these fun shapes! Can you find a circle? What about a square? Great job! This one is a triangle."
- Talk about what each shape looks like. "A circle is round like a ball. A square has four sides that are all the same."
- Optional: Go on a quick "shape hunt" around the room for objects that match the shapes.

Part 2: Puppet Creation (20-25 minutes)

1. Brainstorming Puppet Ideas:

- "What kind of puppet do you want to make? Maybe a person? An animal? A friendly monster?"
- Show how shapes can be combined: "Look, if I put this circle on top of this rectangle, it looks like a person's head and body!" Or "Two triangles can be ears for a cat!"

2. Making the Puppet:

- Let the child choose shapes. Encourage them to pick a shape for a head, a body, maybe arms or legs.
- Guide them in gluing the shapes onto a piece of construction paper to form their character, or directly onto each other.
- If making a detailed character, they can cut smaller shapes for eyes, nose, etc., or use markers/googly eyes.
- Once the shape character is made, help the child glue it onto a craft stick. "Now your puppet can move!"

3. Adding Details (Optional):

- "Does your puppet want some hair made of yarn? Or maybe some spots drawn with a marker?"

Part 3: Puppet Show Time! (10-15 minutes)

1. Puppet Introduction:

- "Wow, your puppet looks fantastic! What is your puppet's name?"
- Encourage the child to make their puppet move and talk. "Can your puppet wave hello? Can it say its name?"

2. Story Time / Imaginative Play:

- "Let's put on a puppet show!" You can use a blanket over a chair as a simple stage.
- Prompt with simple story starters: "Once upon a time, there was a puppet named [Puppet's Name]. What did [Puppet's Name] like to do?" or "What adventure is your puppet going on today?"
- Alternatively, just allow free imaginative play with the puppet. You can engage with your own (quickly made) shape puppet if you like.

Wrap-up (5 minutes)

1. **Review:** "We used so many shapes today to make our puppets! Which shapes did you use?"
2. **Praise:** "You were so creative and made an amazing puppet!"

3. **Clean-up:** Involve the child in tidying up the craft supplies.

Differentiation/Tips:

- **For younger or less dextrous children:** Have all shapes pre-cut. Focus on identifying 1-2 shapes and simple gluing. The adult can do more of the assembling based on the child's directions.
- **For children needing more challenge:** Encourage them to cut their own shapes (with supervision). Ask them to use more complex shape combinations or create accessories for their puppet using shapes. They can also develop a more detailed story.
- Keep it light and fun! The main goal is exploration and creative expression.