

Shape Puppet Palooza!

Let's make some super fun puppets using shapes!

Materials You'll Need:

- Large popsicle sticks (1-2 per puppet)
- Construction paper in various colors (pre-cut into basic shapes like circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, ovals for ease, or sheets for guided cutting)
- Child-safe scissors (if practicing cutting, with adult supervision)
- Non-toxic glue stick or liquid glue
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Yarn scraps or chenille stems for hair/details (optional)
- Markers or crayons
- A small box or edge of a table to use as a puppet theater (optional)

Let's Get Started! (Lesson Steps)

1. Shape Exploration (5-10 minutes)

Hello, super artist! Today, we're going to play with shapes! Look at these shapes I have (show pre-cut shapes or draw them). This is a **circle**. Can you say circle? It's round like a ball! This is a **square**. It has four sides that are all the same. Can you find something square in our room? And this is a **triangle**. It has three pointy corners! What else can we find that looks like a triangle?

Talk about each shape. Have the child trace them with their finger.

2. Designing Our Puppet Friend (15-20 minutes)

Now, let's use these shapes to make a puppet friend! What kind of friend do you want to make? A silly monster? A happy person? A funny animal?

1. **Choose a Body:** Pick a big shape for your puppet's body. What shape will it be? A big circle? A tall rectangle?
2. **Glue it On:** Let's glue your chosen body shape onto the top of a popsicle stick. This will be the handle for our puppet.
3. **Add Features:**
 - What shape can we use for a head? Or maybe your body shape is also the head!
 - How about eyes? We can use small circles or googly eyes. Where do they go?
 - Does your puppet need a nose? What shape could that be? A little triangle?
 - Let's draw a mouth! Is your puppet happy, surprised, or sleepy?
 - We can add arms and legs using thin rectangles or other shapes.
 - Want to give it some hair using yarn, or maybe some triangle ears?

Encourage the child to choose shapes and decide where they go. Help with gluing if needed. Focus on their creative choices. It doesn't have to be perfect; it has to be theirs! For example: "Oh, you want to use a square for the nose? That's a fun idea! Let's see how it looks!"

3. Puppet Show Time! (10-15 minutes)

Wow, your shape puppet looks amazing! Let's give it a name. What's your puppet's name?

Now, it's time for a puppet show! You can hide behind the sofa, a chair, or our special box theater.

What will your puppet say? What adventure will it go on? Maybe your puppet can sing a song about shapes! Or tell us about its favorite color.

Prompt storytelling: "Is your puppet going to the park? What shapes does it see there?" or "What is [Puppet's Name] feeling today?" You can also make a puppet and have the puppets interact.

4. Clean-Up Song (5 minutes)

Our shape puppets had so much fun! Now it's time to clean up. Let's sing a little song while we put our craft supplies away. "Clean up, clean up, everybody, everywhere! Clean up, clean up, put our shapes and scraps right there!"

Extension Ideas (Optional)

- **Shape Hunt:** Go on a shape hunt around the house or outside, calling out the shapes you find.
- **Shape Snack:** Cut sandwiches or fruit into basic shapes.
- **More Puppets:** Create a whole family of shape puppets with different expressions and features.
- **Story Creation:** Help the child write down or draw a story about their shape puppet's adventures.

Remember, the goal is to have fun, explore shapes in a creative way, and let your little one's imagination shine!