



Puppet Making

Materials:

Socks
Buttons
Googly eyes!
Needles & Thread
Scraps of fabric
Glue gun and refill sticks
Scissors
Markers
Stuffing
Power strip
Extension cord
Scrap cardboard

How to for Activity:

-Watch the puppet making video, featuring Maddie!

- One useful thing to know that many campers will be interested in having on their puppet is a solid mouth. To make this:
- Cut out two semi-circles out of the card board.
- Turn puppet inside out
- Hot glue the two pieces of card board onto the sock so that the flat sides of the semi-circles are facing each other as the picture above.
- Appendages/mouths should be formed and stuffed before adding decoration/details.
- Eyes can either be sewn or glued on.

Tips for enjoying this clinic:

- Introduce or run the activity using a sock puppet character. I find it works well to tell the campers that you aren't going to be running the activity and that you are going to go a find a replacement. Go into a back room and then come back out a second later with a sock puppet on, and proceed to give instruction through the sock puppet.
- Have fun with it! Begin the clinic by asking them to state their name, their future puppets in the voice of their future puppet. Weird them out a little bit.

Safety Concerns:

- Keep an extra eye on the glue guns when young campers are using them. Stress caution when in use and restrict use if camper is using un-safely.
 - Watch for hot "stringy" glue. Allow glued details to cool before handling.
- Needlework will also be monitored. Use of either of these methods by very young campers is up to counselors' discretion. Be prepared to directly assist campers.



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Puppet facts:

History:

-The earliest sock puppets in record are from the 1920s, although they didn't gain popularity as a homemade craft until the 1950s, when several US magazines published directions on how to make them. In 2008, an art exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Philadelphia showcased examples of puppets (including sock puppets) from the past 70 years.

Features

-Sock puppets are made using a simple sports sock, which is then decorated by adding face details, such as eyes, ears, whiskers or even a tongue, depending on what animal the puppet is supposed to represent. The mouth of the sock puppet is created by pushing into the heel of the sock with open fingers (the thumb opposite the others) and moving the mouth as the puppet "speaks." Long socks are needed for most puppets to maintain the illusion, as the sock needs to cover the forearm to allow the puppeteer to stay hidden or to appear to be a separate entity.

Materials

-Puppets can be made with any type of sock that is not transparent (so the fingers cannot be seen through the material), although most puppeteers use either white or gray socks because they're easier to personalize. Felt and streamers are commonly used to create additional facial features, such as ears or noses, although some people may prefer more sophisticated materials, including googly eyes or artificial hair, most commonly used to make dolls. Most sock puppets are meant to represent animals, rather than humans, so the creative license is bigger.

Uses

-Sock puppets are used often by teachers in pre-K or kindergarten classes to explain basic concepts to very young children. They are also a common craft learned in beginner's classes because they require few skills, including no sewing. Sock puppets are surprisingly popular in the media as well, including several TV shows. While regular puppets are often used in shows featuring a plot line and several characters, sock puppets are more commonly seen individually, interacting with the people around them rather than with other puppets.



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