

Creating Your Own Puppets

In this activity, we are using language around emotions. We are exploring ways to explore storytelling, expressing ourselves and using our imaginations. Again, we will be examining how lines can be used to show different feelings in art.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT FEELINGS CAN YOU NAME?

Share a book that explores the theme of emotions. As a group, create a list of emotions that were shown throughout the book. Encourage children to name as many different emotions as they can and add them to your list.

In this project, children will create a puppet showing a particular feeling.

You will need:

- Brown paper bags
- Black markers
- Collage materials: paper, old gift wrap, fabric scraps, buttons
- Glue
- Dowel, skewers or sticks



Turn the paper bag so that the opening is pointing downwards.

Ask: What feeling will your puppet show? Is it happy? Angry? Sad?

Encourage children to create a face for their puppet using the black marker.

You may like to refer back to the Play Dough Faces project and discuss how lines can convey feelings.



Use a variety of collage materials to glue decorations onto the paper bag.

Once you have finished decorating, place the bag over the dowel, skewer or stick and scrunch the bag around it. Hold it in place with tape, ribbon, or fabric.

Your puppet is ready to express itself.

- *How is it feeling? What stories will it tell?*

You could encourage children to play with their puppets together to create a story and stage a puppet show. Introduce other toys and props that you already have.

To conclude, you might ask:

- "I can see _____. What inspired you to do that?"
 - Comment on a specific element of their puppet. E.G "I can see you used zig zag lines here near the eyebrows. What inspired you to do that?"
- Ask the child to tell you all about their puppet.