



# Shadow Puppet Play

Shadow Puppet Play  
Activity sheet

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# You Will Need

- A large white cloth sheet.
- Light source – white board projector, angle poise lamp, strong torch light, overhead projector.
- Thin card – cereal boxes to recycle are ideal.
- Coloured cellophane – from florists, gift wrapping.
- White glue/glue sticks – glue that dries clear.
- Scissors.
- Wooden kebab sticks or recycle plastic straws for early years.
- Clear sticky tape.
- Hole punch & split pins (if making moving parts).

# Getting Started

- Hang your white sheet to create a screen in a darkened room.
- Set up your direct strong light so that it shines on the screen.
- Play with the puppets between the light and the screen, make shadows with your hands and body. Encourage exploring shape, size and movement in the light.

# Benefits of Shadow Play

- Builds self-confidence and self esteem.
- Builds positive skills and achieves results simply and efficiently.
- Develops language and communication skills.
- Is a naturally collaborative medium.
- Develops art/craft skills and manual dexterity.

## Make a Shadow Puppet

- Draw a simple shape, as large as your hand, on an A5 sized piece of card.
- Cut out carefully around the line with as much detail as possible.
- Use a hole punch for the eyes.
- Cut detail in puppet carefully within the card puppet, such as a heart, and glue coloured cellophane piece over, like a stained-glass window, the light illuminates the colour.
- If making a moving part, draw separately to overlap & connect, and punch holes. Attach with split pin and tape on stick
- Use the tape to strongly affix stick or straw in the centre of the puppet, being careful not to cover cellophane.

# Performing

- Hold the stick at the very end, to keep your hand out of the shadow image.
- Move slightly slow, when you move your puppet, so the audience can tell what your doing.
- Use your body as a silhouette in role play with props and scenery.

# Exploring

- Talk about light, colour and shadow.
- Discuss local histories, people's stories and historical themes.
- Think about size, shape and outline.
- Play with everyday objects and how they make shadows.
- Use hats and props for roleplay and dramatically reenact historical themes.
- Let the children make up stories and characters, facilitate the action.
- Add in music – soundscapes of industries, classical music etc add to the atmosphere.
- Percussion instruments are also useful for added effects.

# Have fun!