

Jean Kuecher, Marionette Playhouse  
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**Enrich Literacy Skills With Easy to Make Puppets** (Core Knowledge Area: Professional Practice, Methods, & Curriculum: Early Literacy)

Get motivated, gain confidence, and learn techniques for using puppets and stuffed animals - powerful teaching and learning tools - to enrich and nurture creative thinking, to stretch the imagination, to strengthen a love of language, to motivate reading, and to heighten visualization, critical thinking, listening, and communication skills. Incorporate art into literature by using puppets for story mapping, collaboration and comprehension. Be enabled to use puppets to teach specific concepts and ideas to children.

**Presenter Bio Information**

Puppeteer Jean Kuecher is producer of the Marionette Playhouse and has delighted audiences since age 10. With a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Masters' degree in Education: Counseling and Guidance, she brings unique expertise and insight to her craft. As a teacher she used puppetry to enhance her classroom curriculum. As a school counselor she developed weekly marionette shows on self-awareness themes. Her ability as a marionette builder, scriptwriter, costume and scene designer, and master performer combine to create presentations that entertain, educate, and stir the imagination. Jean's puppetry training workshops for educators are motivating and fun, while increasing literacy and science skills!

**PUPPETRY: A CHILD'S ENCHANTMENT**

**WORKSHOP NOTES**

*Core Knowledge Area: #3 Professional Practice, Methods & Curriculum*

Puppetry: A performing art form giving life to inanimate objects.

Goals: imagination, creative expression, story telling organization, listening skills, oral communication, explore literature, controlled emotional outlet, drama, (not an art project)

Creating your own script: A likable character strives against great odds to achieve a worthwhile goal.

Teacher: Give the puppet a voice: Children know you are the puppeteer but are willing to believe the puppet is talking. Look at the puppet who is speaking. Puppeteer hidden is not necessary.

Children: The teacher assigns the puppet an exercise or situation for purposeful movement.

**PUPPET SHOW IN A CONTAINER**

Itsy Bitsy Spider in a paper cup, characters on straws through holes in bottom.

Three Little Pigs in a plastic container (baby wipes). Puppets drawn on poster board, on chopsticks.

Happy/Sad Faces- one cup with face drawings inside another cup with a cut out opening.

## **STORE BOUGHT PUPPETS**

Red Riding Hood- 3 way puppet, wolf, children play the part of the mother and the woodcutter.

Baby on Pillow- (doll on pillow with hole underneath) or Tattle Tale Baby, always there for the children to talk to and explain their situations.

song: "Hush, little baby, don't you cry, I'm going to find you a friend named \_\_\_. After that friend named \_\_\_ plays today, then I'll find you a friend named \_\_\_\_" Repeat "After...."

Old Lady Who Swallowed The Fly- clear plastic over stomach. Animals are drawn on poster board.

Naughty Nan Puppet: take the misbehaving child or children to talk to the puppet to discuss the problem.

## **GLOVE PUPPETS**

Five Little Ducks Went Out to Play- Yarn balls glued onto OUTSIDE of glove fingers. Mother Duck is paper plate with envelope mouth.

Peter Rabbit- Characters glued on outside of glove fingers. Scene (carrot) on glove.

## **SOCK PUPPETS**

The Very Hungry Caterpillar- Sock caterpillar, attach legs, glue red circle cloth mouth, put cloth butterfly inside. "What would the caterpillar eat at your house?"

Close-up photos of the children's faces- glued on sewn hand puppet or sock. Yarn hair. Paper arms, legs.

## **PAPER TUBE PUPPETS**

Dentist with different mouths- Smaller tube with mouth drawings inside larger tube with hole cut.

Thanksgiving Pilgrims and Indians- Toilet paper tubes as people, real Indian corn, cloth ocean, paper ship, turkey puppet, small pumpkin.

## **SHADOW PUPPETS**

Overhead projector- Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly. File folder paper with straws taped on.

Bedtime For Frances- Cardboard box with open bottom covered in thin cotton. Light bulb clamped inside box, Puppets cut from file folder paper, straws or chopsticks as controls. Story pre-taped or read.

## **PAPER PLATE PUPPETS**

Frog- smaller plate stapled over bigger plate to open stomach, envelop head, egg carton eyes.

Mother Duck- paper plate with envelope mouth stapled on, add paper feet and wings, feather on top.

Fish- two plates stapled around leaving opening for hand, add paper tail and fins

## **JELLO BOX PUPPETS**

People- glue magazine pictures or color paper onto Jell-O box, open end to put in hand. Write story and concept situations on cards located in basket with puppets. Example: "Puppets show kindness on the playground" Or "Mother and child plan the child's birthday party".

Crocodile- two Jell-O boxes stapled flaps together. Fingers into top box, thumb into bottom box. Cover arm and boxes with two socks, glue on egg carton eyes, Styrofoam teeth, red cloth inside mouth.

### **FLUORESCENT (BLACK LIGHT) PUPPETS**

Swimmy- neon paper cut into fish and undersea animals, buy a black light (in poster shops at mall).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mouse in Holes- cloth finger puppet mouse peeks through holes in poster, teaches colors, numbers, letters.

Shoe box puppet stage- shoe box hanging over your neck on a ribbon, with opening facing audience, slit cut in bottom of box (along side), puppets are poster paper on sticks, (popsicle, chopsticks, or straws)

**ANIMAL SCIENCE:** Name, Classification, Habitat, Prey, Predator, Life Cycle, Adaptation, Inherited Trait

### **MARIONETTES & RACOONEY**