

Using Puppets to support Communication



How to use Puppets:

- Use puppets as a visual support to promote children's understanding. This can be helpful for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs or English as an Additional Language.
- Puppets are also useful for supporting children who are reluctant communicators or who are feeling anxious, to develop their self-confidence.
- Puppets are non-judgemental. They can be used to help children explore a range of emotions they may be experiencing themselves or help them to empathise with others.
- Model puppet play using different voices, exaggerated actions and intonation.
- Act out the puppet making 'silly mistakes', for example putting trousers on its head when dressing – encourage the children to say what happen.
- Use puppets to introduce new language and ideas, or to rehearse how to manage tricky situations, in a non-threatening way.
- Use puppets at transition times as a consistent 'friend'.
- Puppets are a great way to resolve conflicts, for example, model the situation where one puppet has all the trains, and the other puppet wants to play. Ask the children to suggest what they should do.
- Encourage children to tell their own stories using puppets, for example through role play.
- Puppets are also a good way to develop physical skills.

N.B. Be sensitive to the needs of individual children. Some children may be afraid of puppets, and others may not have the imaginative skills to understand.

Links to EYFS: CLL, PD, PSED, LIT, MATHS, KU, EAD

Links to SEND Code of Practice: C&L, C&I, SEMH, P&S



Try this at home:

- Use simple resources to [make puppets](https://empoweredparents.co/types-of-puppets/) with children at home, using wooden spoons, paper bags, socks etc.

<https://empoweredparents.co/types-of-puppets/>

