

# How to make... a sock puppet

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Suitable for ages 7 - 11 independent working

Suitable for ages 3 - 6 with adult help

This puppet making project is suitable for family making and playing, where a adult supports a child on their journey of imagination and creation. Some of the making steps described are suitable for an adult, and some for a child. Be adventurous and let your child have a go at different steps.

Use old odd socks to give them new life – even the ones with holes on toes are fine and welcome.

Turn them into horses, giraffes, aliens, friendly monsters or who knows what else!

If you are making a puppet with very small child, be prepared for it to take a while, so do a small section until there is an interest for it, and come back to it later.

Have fun!



## You will need:

- A sock
- Felt (black, white and other colours) for eyes and ears
- Jersey fabric – T-shirt sort of fabric
- Scraps of different fabrics
- Thick fabric to cut small squares for arms
- Wool in different colours
- Needle and thread (alternatively you can glue eyes, ears and other fabric decorations on with fabric glue)
- Scissors
- Felt tip pen
- Small plastic water bottle (500ml)
- Some toy food or odd little things you can collect around the house to feed your puppet



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## Instructions

### Step 1:

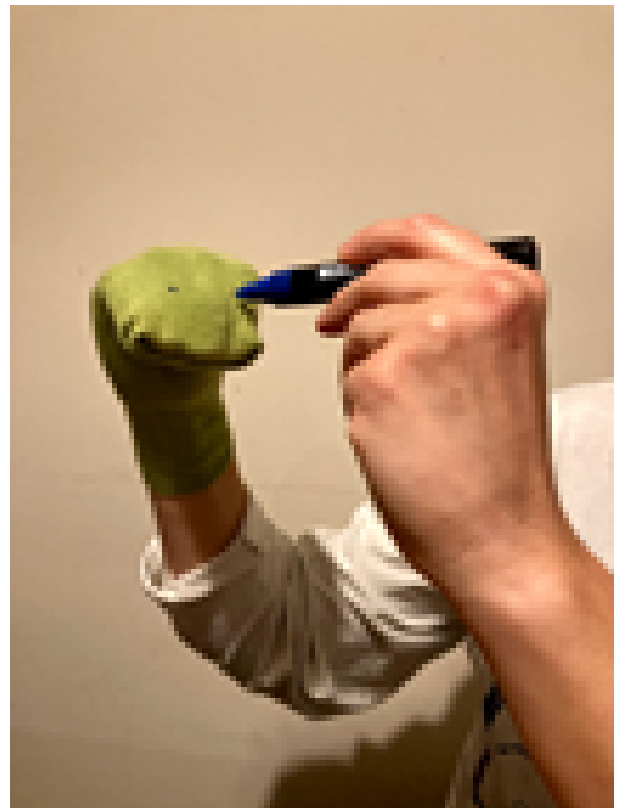
Put the sock on your hand. The knuckles of your hand should be positioned in the heel of the sock.

To make the puppet's mouth, tuck the toe end of the sock into your hand – with your fingers making the top of the jaw and your thumb making the bottom of the jaw.



### Step 2:

With the sock still on your hand, make dots with a felt tip pen where you would like to place puppet's eyes.



### Step 3:

Put your sock over a water bottle - it will make sewing for children much easier. When you are threading a needle for a child to sew, secure both ends of the thread in the knot - that way the needle won't slide off the thread while your child is sewing. Cut shapes for eyes out of felt and sew them on. Alternatively glue the eyes onto the sock. Some other ideas for eyes: buttons, beads, pompoms, or even paper can be a fine solution.



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## Step 4:

Put the sock puppet back on your hand with the mouth tucked in. Have a look where would you like to position the nose and make a mark with a felt tip pen.

Cut a round shape from jersey (T-shirt fabric). It can be different sizes, depending how big a nose you want. A circle shape around 5cm in diameter makes a medium-sized nose. Use a running stitch to sew around the circle of fabric, not too close to the edges. Insert stuffing (this can be just a tuft of wool scrunched up in a ball) and pull the two ends of the thread tight.

Push the stuffing in to form a ball (if it looks flimsy, add more stuffing) and tie two ends of the thread together in a double knot. Push the excess fabric inside the ball.

Sew it onto the sock on top of your felt tip pen nose mark.



## Step 5:

Draw with felt tip pen two ear shapes on your fabric of choice. Stiff fabric such as felt or denim make nice stand-up ears. The ears can be big, small, round, pointy, stand-up or floppy...

For a 3D ear effect, leave the bottom of the ear straight and stitch along with a running stitch (in and out with the needle), then pull the thread to gather the fabric and make a knot so that the ear stays that way.

Sew it on your puppet's head in the places you previously marked with the felt tip pen.



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### Step 6:

For the wool hair, wind some wool around your hand making several loops. For longer hair stretch your fingers out, for short hair wind the wool around only two or three fingers. The more loops you have, the thicker the hair will be. Tie all the loops together with a separate piece of string and make a double knot. Cut all the loops at the bottom. Sew the hair onto the puppet's head.



### Step 7:

If you would like your sock puppet to have arms, here is a lovely threading method that even a very young child can do. Cut out lots of small fabric squares – preferably from thick and soft fabrics such as woolly materials – old jumpers and similar scraps. The needle needs to go easily through the fabric you are using. Thread the needle with a double thread and make a knot at the end, thick enough to keep the small squares in place at the end of the thread. Have a child thread small pieces of fabric on the needle and then slide them down on the thread, until there is a nice caterpillar on the thread, long enough to make an arm. An adult can then make a solid knot at the end of the arm. Put the sock puppet on your hand first - see where you would like the arms to be attached and make a mark with a felt tip pen.



Sew both arms onto the sock.

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### Step 8:

Your sock puppet is finished – and hungry too!

Have a look around the house – what interesting things can you find to feed your sock puppet. Munching socks love to nibble on almost anything, including wool string grass, toys, toy food, and most of all - children's fingers. Yum yum!

