



USING YOUR MONKEY PUPPET

Your monkey puppet comes with an arm rod that can be removed or used on either of the puppet's hands. It allows a range of hand/arm movements to be performed.

SUGGESTED MOVEMENTS:

Practise the following actions. Incorporate these when you are using the puppet and he will appear more alive and more loveable!

***Yawn.** Open his mouth and put his hand to his mouth.

***Scratch.** Find those itches and get him to scratch them. He might look up with pleasure as he scratches, or he may look at the itchy spot.

* **Act Shy.** Cover his eyes with his hand. Make his head look down. Slowly make him peep above his eyes.

***Pat.** Use his hand to pat a child on the back or on the leg.

* **Hug.** Monkey can put his arm around a child and even kiss a child.

***Wave.** Make monkey look at a child and wave at them.

***Whisper.** Ask monkey a question and have him whisper the answer in your ear. Next, tell the children what the monkey has said to you. You will find that children begin to engage in this pretend play and invent what the monkey has whispered to them.

***Manage turn-taking.** Make monkey point his hand towards a child when it is their turn at group time.

***Sign language.** Monkey can approximate some Auslan signs such as "more", "eat", "come", "dog", "cat", "hat" "sleep". He can also gesture things like "yummy", "yes" and "no".

***Facial Expressions.** This puppet's mouth is very malleable. Experiment with movements of the mouth to make him look excited, disgruntled and so on.

***Laugh and Cry.** Try a big belly laugh, throwing the head back, slapping the thigh and so on. You can make him cry too, looking down, covering his face, rubbing his eyes (...but we hope you don't do this too often).

DRESS HIM UP!

*Each time big monkey is used, you can dress him in different clothes or accessories. This can lead to great discussions. Where do you think monkey has been today?

*Consider: A beanie and a scarf, sunglasses, a bowtie, a medal, running shorts and singlet, a mask and snorkel, pyjamas, a rain coat, an art smock, earmuffs and safety goggles, a swimming cap and goggles, a bandaged head, an arm in a sling.

TAKE PHOTOS

*Take photos of monkey in different situations; sitting on a beach, eating at a restaurant, climbing a tree.

*Send the photos to a phone or via email. View the photos and discuss what monkey is doing.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUPPET USE:

*When you are focusing on a hand movement, don't forget about what the head is doing. Consider the positioning of the head, whether the mouth is open or closed, and the direction of the eyes. (Remember, a puppet can use eye-contact too!)

*You don't have to be a ventriloquist, but using a slightly different voice to your own is a good idea. You will find the children's eyes are on the puppet anyway. Open and shut his mouth when talking.

* Model clear, slow speech at all times. Have the puppet look around to different children when they speak to a group.

*Don't forget to name your puppet and create a character for him. What does he like to eat? Where does he live? What is he scared of? Who are his friends?

*It is your choice whether to let children operate the puppet, however, I tend to only let them "have a go" when this is specifically recommended in the puppet's program (e.g. Social Puppets, the Question Monsters).

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