



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

INTRODUCTION VIDEO

Puppet Center Station Summary

Encourage children to tell a story to their family members using the puppets. Encourage parents to interact with the story so that the child must react with the puppet.

Nursery Rhymes 1

Cognitive Benefits

- Puppets offer children an engaging way to interact and explore their knowledge and understanding of the world (Sturgeonl, 2018).
- Children learn to converse and formulate their thoughts and words to best convey their message (Sturgeonl, 2018).

Social and Emotional

- The most obvious benefit of puppet-play is encouraging the child's imagination and creativity (OpenSchoolbag, 2016).
- Talking through a puppet allows children to explore feelings freely and reenact situations in a way that they are familiar with (Sturgeonl, 2018).
- The process also allows children to develop empathy for others. When children are encouraged to take the role of others, they learn to empathize. This is very important in helping them experience compassion and respect for the feelings of other people (Sturgeonl, 2018).

Motor Development

- When using fingers to move the puppets, your child improves his fine motor skills (small actions such as picking up and holding objects). This way he is able to learn which finger he needs to wriggle in order to make the puppet's arm or leg move. What a way to coordinate brain-hand coordination (OpenSchoolbag, 2016).

At Home Strategies

- An adult can recite a well-known story or nursery rhyme. The child should attempt to act out what is heard with the puppets.
- If a parent has a digital device with them (phone), have them record their child acting out a story with the puppet. Play it back to the child with the volume off and have the child retell the story watching themselves.

References

OpenSchoolbag. (2016, March 3). 6 Big Benefits of Puppet-Play for Children - No Strings Attached! Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://www.openschoolbag.com.sg/blog/benefits-of-puppet-play/>

Sturgeonl. (2018, October 15). How Hand Puppets Help Children Learn Valuable Skills. Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://wehavekids.com/parenting/Educational-Benefits-of-Hand-Puppets-and-Puppet-Theatres>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Create Your Own Paper Puppet Station Summary

Families and children work together to create a paper puppet craft. This puppet can be used when reading future stories to act out what is heard.

Nursery Rhymes Station 2

Cognitive Benefits

- Puppets can tell stories on their own (with a little help from you) or make a book come to life. Puppets are also a great tool for teaching rhyme in early literacy development (Durand, 2017).
- Children love to have 'conversations' with a puppet. Each verbal interaction with their puppet will encourage language development (Mcilroy, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Early learners can take on different characters and often shy children interact more easily as their puppet persona (Durand, 2017).
- A supportive puppet can model social interactions, like ways to ask to play with a toy. Get children to act out their feelings or voice their fears or frustrations to a puppet (Durand, 2017).
- The purpose of the puppet is to create interaction, fun dialogue and even an element of surprise into your play and learn activities (Mcilroy, 2020).
- A puppet can be the voice used to correct table manners or other social skills. The puppet becomes the instructor and children often enjoy listening to the puppet teaching them to be sociable. It is not mom or dad's voice setting the rules again, but a funny puppet character (Mcilroy, 2020).

Motor Development

- By making hand and finger puppets move, talk and dance and more, kiddos are not only tapping into their imagination and creativity, but they're also working on their fine motor skills at the same time (Port Discover, 1970).

At Home Strategies

- Sing Hickory Dickory Dock, or any other nursery rhyme
- Create a puppet and act out the song

References

Durand, S. (2017, September 26). 5 Reasons Early Learners Love Puppets. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://www.geteduca.com/blog/why-early-learners-love-puppet-play/>

Mcilroy, T. (2020, May 4). The Amazing Benefits of Playing with Puppets in Early Childhood. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://empoweredparents.co/playing-with-puppets/>

Port Discovery Children's Museum. (1970, January 01). Puppet Play Tips for Parents. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://www.portdiscovery.org/news-room/puppet-play-tips-parents>



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Family/House Character Play Station Summary

Model how the characters can be used to act out parts of the attached nursery rhymes (Mary had a Little Lamb & Old Mother Hubbard).

Nursery Rhymes Station 3

Cognitive Benefits

- Children can practice their oral speaking skills by telling a story to a puppet or explaining words or expressions (World of Little Dude, 2020).
- Children's memory is developed and improved especially when retelling a story. They need to be able to keep the timeline or the sequence of events in the correct order and keep track of various characters (Whittier, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Puppets can be an engaging and useful way to help students develop emotionally and grow their language and communication skills (World of Little Dude, 2020).
- Puppets allow children to engage in imaginative play that differs from dolls and other figures (World of Little Dude, 2020).
- While using puppets, children are able to project their own emotions onto the puppet (World of Little Dude, 2020).

Motor Development

- Manipulating hand puppets and finger puppets develop fine motor skills. Larger puppets, like marionettes, require more gross motor skills, but even using stick, sock or paper bag puppets requires a certain amount of stamina in the working arm (Whittier, 2020).

At Home Strategies

- Talk about the pictures in the book as you read the story. Let your child turn the pages.
- Practice counting the items found inside the book
- Talk about the animals and the sounds they make
- Read the other songs that are found at the station
- Use puppets or figurines to engage with the songs

References

Whittier, K. (2020, March 17). Why Puppet Play is Important. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://playandgrow.com/puppet-play-important/>

World of Little Dude. (2020, April 3). Puppets in the classroom. Retrieved June 1, 2020, from <https://www.worldoflittledude.com/blog/puppets-in-the-classroom/>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Trace & Write Alphabet Center Station Summary

Children just place a letter card on the left, then follow the directional arrows to draw the letter with their finger on the plastic writing surface to the right. When children are done, they just lift the plastic film to erase and start again! The 26 double-sided activity cards feature both upper- and lowercase letters.

Nursery Rhymes Station 4

Cognitive Benefits

- Research shows that handwriting is a foundational skill that can influence students' reading, writing, language use, and critical thinking (Wise, 2020).
- Handwriting provides children with the opportunity to create internal models for the symbol system necessary to succeed in academic disciplines (Wise, 2020).
- Children learn best by engaging in hands-on, active learning that incorporates the five senses (known as multi-sensory learning) (Wise, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Multisensory instruction can also help children become more invested in the classroom (Wise, 2020).
- Interacting and learning together builds patience and confidence.

At Home Strategies

- Show your child a letter and ask him/her to pay attention to how it is formed/shaped (Wise, 2020).
- Have your child tell you how he/she is making the letter.
- Make sure your child is writing by starting at the top and moving down.

References

Wise, R. (2020, April 22). 11 Multi-Sensory Activities to Teach Children to Write Letters & Numbers Correctly. Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://educationandbehavior.com/research-based-interventions-for-letter-reversals/>



Nursery Rhymes & Puppets

Nursery Rhymes Station Summary

Families may pick a nursery rhyme to read to their child. Some of the Velcro-backed characters may be used during the reading of each story. Felt Board and Storytelling glove are available.

Nursery Rhymes Station 5

Cognitive Benefits

- Repetition of rhymes and stories is good for the brain, teaching how language works and building memory capabilities (Healy, 2020).
- Nursery rhymes help develop inferencing skills, both with encountering new words and in reading comprehension (Healy, 2020).
- Because these verses are made up of patterns, they are easy first memorization pieces (Healy, 2020).
- Nursery rhymes expand children's imagination (Healy, 2020).
- They promote creative dramatization when kids act the scenarios out (Healy, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Nursery rhymes develop humor (Healy, 2020).
- Because of the connection between movement, rhythm, and words, singing these songs can be a great group activity (Healy, 2020).
- Children can learn social skills from many of the rhymes (Healy, 2020).
- Nursery rhymes are familiar and can thus provide comfort and support to youngsters in uncomfortable situations (Healy, 2020).

Social and Emotional

- Motor skills can be developed by assisting your child to point to each word on the page as you read the rhyme to them (Beauchat et al., 2011).

At Home Strategies

- Read the book and make the motions for the song
- Talk about the pictures in the book
- Sing and Act out the other songs from the Song Sheet

References

Healy, M. L. (2020, January 14). The Benefits of Nursery Rhymes on Preschool Development. Retrieved May 29, 2020, from <https://pambarnhill.com/nursery-rhyme-benefits/>

Beauchat, K.A., Blamey, K.L, Walpole, S. (2011). Building preschool children's language and literacy one storybook at a time. *The Reading Teacher*, 63(1). Pp. 26-39.