



Daily tips for Learning at Home – No. 27

Sock Puppet Friends!

When you're sorting laundry there's a good chance you'll find some spare socks! Today's activity makes very good use of these socks whilst having fun with your child.

The use of puppets is a great way to develop children's communication skills. Some children find it easier to express their feelings and needs through puppets.

What do I need?

- A spare sock or two – long ones are best
- A marker pen
- Small pieces of material or card
- Bits of wool
- Buttons, pom poms etc.

What will we learn from this?

- Language development and communication skills
- Expressing needs and feelings
- Increased self-confidence
- Manipulative skills
- Creativity
- Imagination

What do we do?

Talk with your child about what a sock puppet is as they may not have seen one.

If you have several spare socks, ask your child to choose one they would like to make into a sock puppet friend.

Why not make a sock puppet friend at the same time as your child? The puppets can chat to each other, play and go on adventures together.

Your child may know what kind of sock puppet friend they would like to make, such as a dog or a princess, but to begin with, they may just want to make it up as they go along and that's fine.

Your child can now use the materials you have gathered to make a nose, eyes, ears, hair and any other features your child wants to add. A marker pen can also be used.

You can support them by commenting on what they're doing and adding new words such as long, short, straight, middle etc. You can offer some help if needed, e.g. when using scissors.

Now it's time to have fun with your new friends!

How can we take it further?

Talk about what your child's sock puppet sounds like. Experiment using different voices and sounds.

Your sock puppets could learn songs and rhymes. This is a great opportunity for you to share rhymes you learnt as a child and also ones that your child knows from nursery.

Make a video of the sock puppet friends and send it to family and friends to brighten their day!

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it