

Make a Paper Bag and Cup Puppet

Materials Needed:

Paper cup

Paper lunch bag

1 stick/dowel, approx. 30cm

Bamboo skewer

Glue (white or hot glue)

Masking tape

Construction paper or similar

Card and/or cardboard

Markers

Fabric, paper, card, buttons, beads, fun fur, corks, etc to decorate

Scissors

1. Begin with the cup head. Turn cup upside down, so the open part is at the neck. Create eyes, nose, ears, mouth, hair or hat, and glue onto upside down cup. Hint: to attach card onto a flat surface make a tab ie. cut the card piece longer than you need and bend the extra so you have a flat surface to glue to the head.
2. Glue or tape the stick/dowel to the inside of the cup at back, that will be the puppet's neck and head operating stick.
3. Open up the paper bag and cut a small hole in the base for the neck stick to go through.
4. Make the arm. Cut a strip of paper from the top of the paper bag or use another piece of paper or fabric strip approximately 2.5cm x 20cm. Turn bag upside down so the bottom with the small hole becomes the neck and shoulders. Glue or tape the arm to one side of the upside-down bag, at the shoulder, usually the side that is for your dominant hand. Hint: if using tape put a piece on each side of the arm so you are making a hinge that moves both ways and it won't pull off.

5. Cut out a hand with stiff card or cardboard and tape or glue it to the end of the arm at the wrist. Make sure you give it enough length at the wrist. Attach the control stick to the wrist at a 90 degree angle with tape.

6. Costume your puppet. Decorate the upside-down paper bag by adding paper, fabric, buttons, etc, or draw on it with marker, or mix and match. Be imaginative, you can add: collar, cape, wings, belt etc etc.

7. Assemble your puppet.

Put the puppet stick through the hole in the bag. Add a stopper to prevent the stick from falling out. For the stopper, reach into the bag and tape a small strip of cardboard, about 6cms long on to the stick just below the shoulders, roll it tightly around the stick and tape again to make it stay.

One hand will hold the stick inside the bag to operate the head, the other will hold the hand skewer to animate the arm.

Now your puppet is ready to make a scene. Improvise, write a script. Go crazy!!

Additional ideas: make a puppet booth by stretching a sheet or cloth between two things (chairs, tables, doorframe) and have your puppets pop up from behind. Make a Pandemic Puppet show with your siblings/parents/family and video it.

