



WHY?

- ✓ **Language development:** Children learn how to listen and how to speak new words while playing with puppets.
- ✓ **Thinking development:** Children learn how to use their imagination and creativity when playing with puppets. They can improve their memory when we repeat the same story/song over and over again. They also learn how to concentrate and focus while the puppets have their attention.
- ✓ **Big and small muscle development:** Small muscles in the hands will get nice and strong when children play with puppets on their own hands. Big muscles in the shoulders and arms are also important for making the puppet move around.
- ✓ **Social development:** Children learn how to play pretend while playing with puppets.
- ✓ **Sensory development:** Using their sense of touch they learn about what the soft puppet feels like. Using their sense of sight they learn about colours and what the puppet/animal looks like. Using their sense of hearing they will learn to listen to songs and stories while playing with puppets.



PLAYING WITH PUPPETS



HOW?



- ✔ Use a puppet to act out a story in a book.



- ✔ Make up your own story using two or more puppets.



- ✔ Choose one puppet for yourself and allow your child to choose one puppet for themselves. Make up a story together.



- ✔ Sing songs using puppets (for example *Old McDonald had a farm*)



BLOCK 5 TOYS

PLAYING WITH PUPPETS



- ✓ Move the puppet in different directions and use the words up/down/sideways/backwards/forwards to describe the way the puppet is moving.
- ✓ Make the puppet dance in front of your child. Use a blanket to put over the puppet's head. Encourage your child to pull the blanket off the puppet by saying "Where is Piggy?". When they pull the blanket off say "Peekaboo!"



PLAYING WITH PUPPETS



TIPS

- ✓ When you take a puppet out to play with, start by talking about what **animal** it is, what **sound** it makes, what **colour** it is and point out its **eyes, ears, hands and mouth**. This is an easy way to encourage **thinking development**.
- ✓ Be sure to make the puppet move while he/she is speaking. Move your hand from side to side or move your fingers to make the puppet's arms or head move. This will help to keep your child's focus on the puppet, and will make the puppet seem more life-like.
- ✓ Use different sounding voices for different puppets. For example, use a loud, deep voice for an elephant puppet and a high, squeaky voice for a monkey puppet.
- ✓ Bounce your hand up and down a little to show when the puppet is walking somewhere.
- ✓ When using a puppet to act out a story from a book, try to find other objects from the story for the puppet to interact with. For example: if the sheep in the story eats an apple, bring an apple along to story time for the sheep puppet to eat; or if the pig in the story drives a car, bring a toy car along to story time for the pig to drive.

