

Trinity Stars Stage 1 – Activity plan – The funny puppets

Stage: 1

Language aims:

- ▶ Parts of the body vocabulary
- ▶ Group interaction through choral dialogue

Performance aims:

- ▶ Expressive mime
- ▶ Dance and movement
- ▶ Using musical instruments

A note about timing:

With any improvisation activities, it is hard to be exact about timing as the children may get very involved and want to continue for longer, or may not respond as you expected. However as a rough guideline, you could spend approximately 15 minutes on each activity. With very young learners it is better to do a little and often.

When rehearsing for a performance, spend at least one lesson making sure everyone knows where to move and when.

For Trinity Stars Stage 1, performances should last from 5-15 minutes.

Materials needed:

- ▶ Musical instruments
- ▶ Paints

Activity

Teaching the vocabulary

Introduce the names of the body parts you wish to focus on by calling them out as you point to them and encouraging the children to raise their arms, legs, point to their shoulders and so on.

Funny monster game

1. To begin: Draw a large head and body on the board, leaving space for the limbs and features. Make sure you have drawn it low enough on the board for all the children to reach up and draw.
2. Ask each child, one by one to come and draw one body part. Say, '*[Child's name]*, draw one arm, please.' When they have completed their class Funny Monster, they could choose a name for it.
3. You could then ask them to erase one body part at a time and watch their monster disappear.

Online resources: [Hokey pokey song](#)

Moving like puppets

1. Show the children how to go all floppy like a rag doll.
2. Show how you can lift up one limb at a time then let it go floppy again.
3. With another teacher, show how one can be a puppet master and one the puppet. Pulling on imaginary strings, raise first one arm, then the other, then the head, then each leg.
4. Once the children have seen you demonstrate this, play the 'puppet game' with one of them. Then help them get into pairs and take turns in being the puppet master and the puppet.
5. Now add music:
 - ▶ On toy drums, let the children play one beat for each limb as the human puppets come to life.
 - ▶ They could beat faster or slower and the puppet should move accordingly.

- ▶ To successfully set up this game, let them beat as you move your limbs like a puppet to show them how it is done.
- ▶ Then divide them into groups, with one group banging on the drums and the other moving like puppets.
- ▶ Practise synchronizing their movements.

Performance

1. Use this song/chant as it is or as a basis for your own ideas.
2. Incorporate musical interludes if you would like to use music in your performance.
3. The script and directions can be found on the next page.

Project ideas

Below are some ideas for projects that could be used with this activity plan:

- ▶ Make thumb print people. The children dip their thumbs in coloured paint and make prints on plain paper. When they have dried, they add stick arms and legs and features to the thumb bodies. Show them how they can change the thumb people's appearance by making the arms and legs longer or shorter or going in different directions. Help them to label the thumb people with the body parts.
- ▶ Make simple puppets using paper, string and paper fasteners. The video below shows you how to do this.

Online resources: [Make paper Santa puppets video](#)

The funny puppets performance

There are two characters or groups – Puppet Makers and Puppets. The children sing or chant.

The Puppet Makers stand behind the floppy puppets and pretend to pull imaginary strings.

*Puppet Makers: We make puppets! Look!
One arm up, puppets.*

The puppets raise one arm
Two arms up, puppets.

The puppets raise both arms
Heads up, puppets.

The puppets raise their heads
One leg, puppets.

The puppets move one leg
Two legs, puppets.

The puppets move both legs
Hello, puppets!

Puppets: Hello! We want to walk!

Puppet Makers: Walk, puppets!

Puppets: We want to jump.

Puppet Makers: Jump, puppets!

Puppets: We want to dance

Puppet Makers: Dance, puppets!

Song [to the tune of Row, row, row your boat]

All the children dance and sing:

Shake, shake, shake your arms

Happy as can be.

Arms up, arms down,

Come and dance with me!

Shake, shake, shake your legs

Happy as can be.

Legs up, legs down,

Come and dance with me!

Shake, shake, shake your head

Happy as can be.

Head up, head down,

Come and dance with me!

The children all join hands and take a bow.