



Puppets and Masks

Description	Children can use puppets to initiate conversation or re-enact situations that have happened. Masks can be used in the same way. They can give the child a sense of security and confidence when speaking.
Age Range	2-18
Time	30 minutes +
Cost	About £6 if bought in a shop Puppets could also be made from simple materials
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some children find it easier to talk to something they do not perceive as 'real': it helps some children express views if it is 'not really them talking' - Puppets and masks could be used to explore feelings
Drawbacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some children might find it embarrassing to talk to a puppet - Some children may choose to discuss sensitive or confidential information – be prepared!
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks can be decorated with any materials. Paint, sticky shapes, glitter and sequins work particularly well. Masks can be cut to cover the whole face or part of the face - Puppets can be made from a variety of materials. You could use old socks, paper maché, paper plates glued onto lolly sticks or wooden spoons
Example	The puppets could be used to encourage the children to think about specific issues important to the children. For example, the puppet could represent a new child at the provision and the children could discuss how they would look after it. The puppet could represent a child who does not understand rules to involves children in thinking about problem resolution. The puppet could also be used as an advice tool. The children could ask the puppet advice on things they were unsure of.