

Sock Puppet-making Instructions

This puppet-making project is suitable for family making and playing, where a parent supports a child on their journey of imagination and creation. Some of the making steps described are suitable for a parent, and some for a child. Be adventurous and let your child have a go at different steps.

Use old odd socks to give them new life – even the ones with holes on toes are fine and welcome.

Turn them into horses, giraffes, aliens, friendly monsters or who knows what else!

If you are making a puppet with very small child, be prepared it will take a while, so do a small section until there is an interest for it, and come back to it later.

Have fun!

To watch our tutorial online please visit

<https://youtu.be/nqllWOz0H4k>

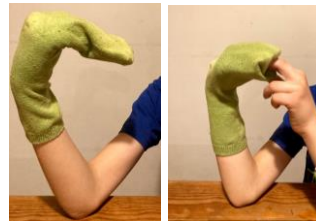
Tools and materials you will need:

- A sock
- Felt (black and white + other colors) for eyes and ears
- Jersey fabric – T-shirt sort of fabric
- Scraps of different fabrics
- Thick wooly fabric to cut pieces for arms from
- Yarn in different colors
- Needle and thread (needle with big eye and pearl cotton thread are)
(Alternatively you can glue eyes, ears and other fabric decorations on with fabric glue.)
- Scissors
- Felt tip pen
- Small plastic water bottle (0.5 L)
- Some toy food or odd little things you can collect around the house to feed your puppet

Put the sock on your hand. The knuckles of your hand should be positioned in the heel of the sock.

To make the puppet's mouth tuck the toe end of the sock into your hand – with your fingers making the top of the jaw and your thumb making the bottom of the jaw.

With the sock still on your hand, make dots with a felt tip pen in places where you would like puppet's eyes to be.



Put your sock over a water bottle, it will make sewing much easier for children.

When you are threading a needle for a child to sew, secure both ends of the thread in the knot.

That way the needle won't slide off the thread while your child is sewing.

Cut shapes for eyes out of felt and sew them on.

Alternatively glue the eye onto the sock.

Some other ideas for eyes: buttons, beads, pom-poms, or even paper can be a fine solution.

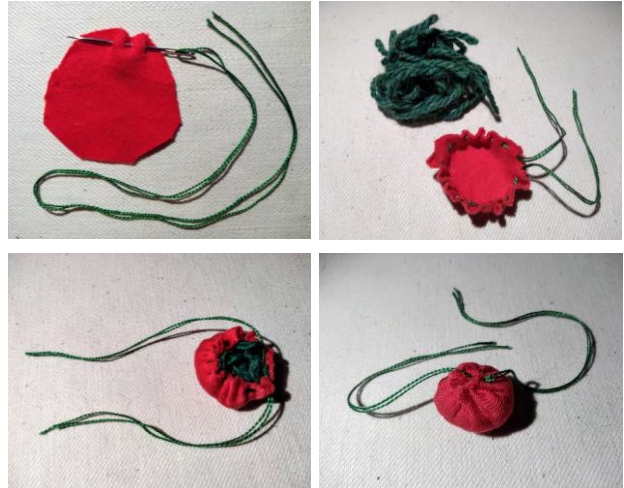


Put the sock puppet back on your hand with the mouth tucked in. Have a look where would you like to position the nose and make a mark with the felt-tip pen.

Cut round shape from jersey (T-shirt fabric). It can be different sizes, depending how big nose you want. Circle shape around 5 cm in diameter makes middle-sized nose. Use a running stitch to sew around the circle of fabric, not too close to the edges. Insert stuffing (this can be just a tuft of yarn scrunched up in a ball) and pull the two ends of the thread tight.

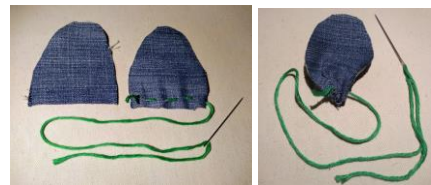
Push the stuffing in to form a ball (if it looks flimsy, add more stuffing) and tie two ends of the thread together in a double knot. Push the excess fabric inside the ball.

Sew it onto the sock – on top of your felt tip pen nose mark.



Draw with felt tip pen two ear shapes on your fabric of choice. Stiff fabric such as felt or denim make nice stand-up ears. Ears can be big, small, round, pointy, stand-up or floppy... For 3D ear effect leave the bottom of the ear straight and stitch along with a running stitch (in and out with the needle), and then pull the thread to gather the fabric and make a knot so that the ear stays that way.

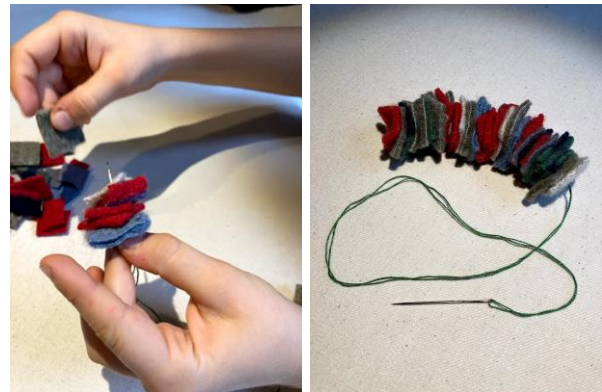
Saw it on a puppet's head in places you previously marked with the felt tip pen.



For yarn hair wind yarn around your hand making quite a few loops. For longer hair stretch your fingers, for short hair wind the yarn around only three or two fingers. The more loops you have, thicker will the hair be. Tie all the loops together with a separate piece of string. Make a double knot. Cut all the loops at the bottom. Sew the hair onto the puppet's head.



If you would like your sock puppet to have arms – here is a lovely threading method that even a very young child can do. Cut out loads of small fabric squares – preferably from thick and soft fabrics such as woolly materials – old jumpers and similar scraps. Thread the needle with a double thread and make a knot at the end, thick enough to keep the small squares in place at the end of the thread. Have a child thread small pieces of fabric on the needle and then slide them down on the thread, until there is a nice caterpillar on the thread, long enough to make an arm. Adult can then make a solid knot at the end of the arm. Put the sock puppet on your hand first, see where you like the arms to be attached and make a mark with a felt tip pen. Saw both arms onto the sock.



Your sock puppet is finished – and hungry too! Have a look around the house – what interesting things can you find to feed your sock puppet? Munching socks love to nibble on almost anything, including wool string grass, toys, toy food, and most of all - children's fingers. Yum-yum!



For more activities please visit <https://groundswellarts.com/about-us/resources/>

Or Sign up for our newsletter https://groundswellarts.com/?page_id=1286

