

## Tips for Puppet Activities

### Making the Puppets:

- You can make simple puppets out of socks with googly eyes and yarn for hair.
- Make sure that every puppet looks a little different and try to give them character.
- In these activities we kept our puppet's original names, but of course change them as you wish, or have your class name them!

### Creating a Puppet Theater:

- A sheet and a curtain rod work just fine for this. It can be more comfortable for you if the theater is on chairs on top of a table--high enough so that you don't need to duck. Just make sure to take down the chairs quickly afterwards.
- Hiding behind a bookshelf or using a large box as the stage can work too.

### Introducing Puppets:

- Treat the puppets like visitors to the classroom. Encourage the class to connect with and welcome the puppets at the start:
  - "I'm going to bring out my friend 'Blinkers', 'Blinkers' is pretty shy so I'm going to need your help in welcoming him/her, let's give a warm hello to him/her"
  - Do this for all puppets shy/scared/not used to being on stage, etc.
- As soon as puppets are on stage, keep them moving and interacting
- When you are speaking, have the puppets look at you; when the puppets are speaking, look at the puppets. The puppets don't need to be ventriloquized.
- Put the puppets out of view for debriefs, interludes, and once the scene is over. They can always come back to say goodbye at the end!

### Scenes:

- Establish the scene. If the puppets are playing soccer, have them say things like "pass to me!" etc.
- Don't worry about using the exact scripts written out in these Puppet Shows. Get an idea of the main points you want to get across, and infuse the dialogue with your own style.