



Using leaf puppets to tell stories

What you will need:

- At few sticks & leaves
- Poster paint or Sharpies
- Your child's favourite story books
- Optional video recording device

Begin by reading your child's favourite story together, or choose their favourite chapter from a longer book. Encourage your child to read speech using different voices and emotions, according to the feelings of the characters.

Next go on a hunt in your outdoor space for some leaves and sticks. If the leaves are wet, pat them dry before using them for your puppets.

At this point, ask your child what they notice about the leaves.

Questions you could ask:

How are they different?

How are they similar?

How will you decide which leaf to use for each character? E.g a serrated leaf would suit a bear or a wolf in a story.





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Let your child decide which characters they will create using leaves.

Then use either poster paint or sharpies to draw on the leaves. If using poster paint, cotton earbuds work well to detail the characters.

Then use string to wrap around the base of the leaf and attach to a stick (see photo below).

Now you are going to complete some drama based on the story your child has chosen. Begin by role-playing with your child using the leaf puppets. Ask them to retell the story and use different voices to emphasise characters' emotions.

If you have a video recording device, then record your child's performance and watch it back together. This is a great opportunity for them to develop their public speaking skills and reflect on their performance. Thinking about the positives and points to improve further.





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Taking it further by altering the story.

Questions you could ask to prompt creativity:

- What happens after the ending of the story we've read?
- What might have happened before the story started?
- How might the story be different without a certain character?
- If this character turned out to be the hero of the story, how would the plot be different?

Edit these questions depending on the story choice. Then encourage your child to role-play their new version. Again, record if possible and watch together to reflect.

