

Fast Foam Hand Puppets

by Peter Gardini

These simple hand puppets are very easy to make and so are excellent where you wish to make a large number very quickly. They are very economical to make and provide enjoyment for children and adults of all ages.



You will require:

Sheets of foam in various colours. Our local pound and craft shops sell these in packs of A4 sized sheets which are just about the right size to make a single puppet.

Wobbly plastic eyes if you can afford them, or cut out eyes and clothes from waste foam pieces. Small pom poms are also a nice addition for noses and buttons.

You will also require adhesives. Glue sticks such as Pritt sticks or similar are ideal for most of the sticking. For stronger adhesion we would recommend using UHU or Bostic clear adhesive. These adhesives dry fairly quickly when used with the foam material.

Make up a template on thick card from the diagram at the rear.

Place the template on a sheet of the foam and draw round it with a pen. Fig. 1.

Cut out the shape with scissors. For younger children this should be done by an adult. Fig 2.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Cut a strip of the waste foam about 1 inch wide and glue it at each end just below the shoulders of the figure. Fig 3.

We recommend using UHU or Bostic clear as the adhesive for this strip. This enables the operator to insert their finger at the back of the puppet to animate the figure as shown in Fig 4.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

When the glue has dried on the rear strip, turn the puppet over and glue on the eyes, nose, mouth and clothes if you want them. If you make up the blanks in advance of construction you will have plenty of excess foam to make your clothes and other bits from. It is also possible to draw on the foam with a marker pen to make hair or other features such as stripes or buttons.



These puppets are great fun to make and use and are a nice thing for the children and adults to be able to take home and use after the event. We have used them for messy church and also for story time in the playgroup. Whatever you use them for, enjoy and have fun.

Please note.

We could not get the whole of the template onto the printed page, due to limitations of the printer and software. You may wish to enlarge the picture and extend the feet slightly before making your card template.

