

# Shadow Puppets

Learners will create their own simple shadow puppets, and experiment with light and shadow while playing with them.

**Recommended Age:** 5+ years old

**Time needed:** 10 minutes to set up, 10+ minutes to explore



## What You Need

- Flashlight or other bright light source
- Black construction paper
- Straws, popsicle sticks, or something similar to use as a handle
- Scissors
- Pencil, pen or marker
- Tape
- A friend or helper (optional)



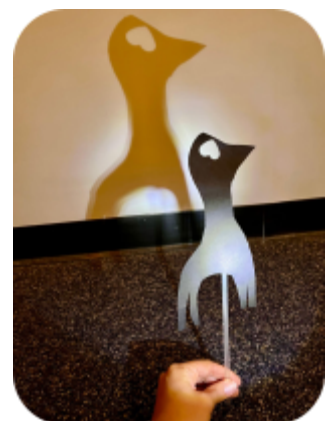
## What You Do

- Think about what kind of shape you want your puppet to be. Remember, only the shape of the puppet will appear on the wall, not any details you draw on to it.
- Use a pencil, pen or marker to draw the outline on a piece of black construction paper.
- Cut out your shape.
- If you want your puppet to have eyes or other features, you'll need to cut those details out so the light will shine through them.
- Tape the paper to a straw, popsicle stick or other handle.



### To use your puppet

- Turn off all the lights and close any shades to make it really dark in the room.
- Stand about 2 feet from the wall.
- Turn on the flashlight and point it at the wall. If you have a helper, have them hold the flashlight.
- Put your puppet in front of the flashlight. What do you notice?
- Try making more than one puppet, and telling a story with them!



## Tips for Adults

- Ask your child if they've ever noticed shadows in other places.
- Try making shadow puppets with your hands!
- Have your child experiment with moving the puppet closer or farther from the light, or try moving the light closer or farther from the wall.



## Learning and Skills Connection

- **Creativity:** Imagining possibilities, solutions, and forms of expression; thinking outside the box
- **Envisioning:** Picturing in the mind's eye, imagining, spatial thinking, applying abstract thinking
- **Being playful:** Engaging with a playful spirit; fooling around with alternatives; making and breaking rules; taking a whimsical approach, tapping into humor; feeling pleasure and joy

## Doing STEAM with Kids

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. There are lots of ways you can explore these letters, apart or together. Ask your child to make predictions, describe what they see, and to imagine possibilities and solutions. Don't worry so much about the "right" answer. Developing curiosity, and problem-solving skills are important first steps to doing STEAM!

