

Parent Resource

Tips for Using Puppets to Promote Preschool Children's Social and Emotional Development



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Preschool children are working to accomplish the important developmental milestones of learning social and friendship skills including beginning to share, help others, initiate social interactions, listen, and cooperate with peers. They are also working on emotional regulation skills including emotional literacy, self-control over aggressive behavior, ability to wait and accept limits, and beginning problem solving skills.

One of the ways to promote your preschool child's social and emotional skills is through the use of puppet play. Puppet play is effective because it helps the parent/teacher enter into the child's imaginary world and allows children to experience the feelings of other characters (early empathy development) and learn important social behavior and conversation skills.

With puppets, dolls, or action figures you can act out stories you are reading with children, make up fantasies, and explore solutions to pretend problems. You may be nervous at first using puppets, but try it out and before long you will experience the joy of entering into your child's thoughts, feelings and imagination, one of the most intimate places you can be at this age.



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Click on the article above for helpful and fun information on how to use puppets with children!

At the Children's Center we use puppets to act out stories, understand problem solving situations, and just have enjoyable conversations about anything that is on the child's mind!