

FIVE WAYS TO USE FINGER PUPPETS

PUPPET PLAY LETS CHILDREN EXPLORE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND HONE THEIR SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS.

Puppets can teach children about emotions and social interactions. A set of five finger puppets, each named after a different disposition or quality — Confi-Dan, Serene-itty, Reese-pectful, Fee-Ling and Razz-possible — was distributed to preschools who signed up for last year’s Early Childhood Conference. *Beanstalk* asked some educators to share how they used the puppets in class.



1 FOSTER EMPATHY AND COMPASSION

“The finger puppets, especially Fee-Ling, were a great resource for our lesson on caring for animals. The children took turns pretending to be Fee-Ling and the animals (such as a parrot puppet and robo-fish). Those role-playing as Fee-Ling had fun feeding and petting the animals. Through this activity, children learned that animals, like humans, have feelings too, and developed a sense of empathy and compassion.”

MS WU SHENG
Teacher, *Bridging Stars Childcare*



2 EASE ANXIETY ABOUT TRANSITIONS

“Some of my K2 children were anxious about going to primary school. I used the finger puppets, with different voices and personas, as storytelling partners and in conversations with children to address their concerns. They enjoyed this form of communication. Confi-Dan was the most popular character, as he was positive and encouraged children to look forward to the good and fun things in a new school.”

MS WONG YEN SHAN
Teacher, *My First Skool @ Blk 601 Ang Mo Kio*



3 CALM DOWN

“After introducing Serene-itty to the children, the teacher got them to try activities that required children to control their emotions and behaviours, like Serene-itty always does. For example, the children had to close their eyes and slowly count to 10, or stay lying down for a few minutes. Those who were able to remain calm and quiet throughout the activity received an origami heart from Serene-itty.”

MS WAN HILL KUAN
Centre Leader, *YWCA Bedok South Child Development Centre*



4 ENABLE CHILDREN TO EXPRESS EMOTIONS SAFELY

“Young children are often shy and struggle to express their feelings. Having imaginary puppet friends allowed children to transform into another ‘person’ and talk about their feelings openly and without restraint. The finger puppets can be left in the dramatic corner or language corner of your classroom for children to play with. During Show & Tell, let children wear the finger puppets to talk about what they did at home.”

DR JANE CHING-KWAN
Curriculum Founder and Director, *Skool4Kidz*



5 IMPROVE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS THROUGH ROLE PLAY

“We created a mini home out of blocks for the finger puppets, and suggested scenarios for children to engage in role-play. For example, the puppets had common misunderstandings such as wanting the same toy or hurting one another by accident. The children would chime in on what they thought the puppets should do or say in a healthy and pro-social manner, and then use the puppets to act it out.”

MS HERMES LU
English Teacher, *Little Seeds Preschool @ The Salvation Army (Bukit Batok East)*