

ZIPTALES™

SCRIPT IDEAS FOR PUPPET PLAYS

The following ideas for puppet plays are offered only as guidelines.

The assumption is that children viewing the three puppet plays on the CD may not be old enough to read and write easily. That is why the special feature '**How to put on your own puppet play**' uses oral and visual teaching, and not literary (text) teaching.

Likewise, the script ideas which follow are not full written scripts, but 'sketches' of plot ideas, suitable for younger children, and not requiring writing or long memorisation. They can be rehearsed a couple of times, and then 'ad libbed'.



Another assumption made is that while most schools, and children, will not have access to complicated professional puppets, that simple glove puppets may be available (in toy or gift shops), and that most toys can be pressed into service easily (as explained in the video feature on making a puppet play).

We suggest that you encourage children to improvise with whatever 'characters' they have to hand. Don't worry about a 'theatre' or props. The real value in puppet plays is that they challenge children to construct characters, and narratives. A bare stage production, with just the puppets/toys and voices can be just as effective as more complex projects.

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1

A Script for Australian Animal Characters

Characters:

- Kangaroo
- Koala
- Possum
- Wombat
- Doll

The Story:

The doll finds herself lost in the bush one day.

She is getting very frightened when she is befriended by a kangaroo. He wants to help her find her way back, but meanwhile she has to stay somewhere overnight. Kangaroo consults his friends – wombat and koala. Koala suggests that she climb up in his tree. She explains why she can't do that. Wombat suggests she come down his hole in the ground. She explains why she can't do that.

Finally, after much head scratching, the three animals decide that they will keep her warm by cuddling up together – all four of them. Perhaps they sing a song of friendship to finish off the story.

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2

A Script for Toys

Characters:

- Teddy Bear
- Doll
- Soldier or Robot
- Fairy or witch or wizard
- Child (ie a real person)

The Story:

The toys are all in the playroom one night. They hear strange noises. They discuss amongst themselves whether these noises are normal.

They send one of their number – probably the bravest of the group – to investigate. The report comes back that there are burglars in the house. The toys decide they have to wake up their owner – boy or girl. They must find a way of doing this without revealing to the child that they are ‘alive’ – their big secret. They take turns in trying to wake up the child.

Finally the child wakes. They all freeze. The child hears the noises, and raises the alarm. He/she then returns to the playroom – mystified by the dream of talking toys. The child goes back to sleep. The toys ask the audience not to reveal their secret.

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3

A Script for Sock Puppets

Characters:

- 2 girl puppets
- 1 boy puppet
- 1 parent puppet

The Story:

The two girls are the sister and the sister's friend. The boy is the little brother. He wants to join in and play with them. She wants to exclude him. He tries pleading, being a pest (making a noise, running back and forth in front of them, etc), sulking – all to no avail.

Finally he calls in the mother. She tells his sister she is being mean, but then tells *him* not to be a pest. At this, the sister includes him in their play. He changes from being a pest to being a lot of fun.

Suddenly the mother calls him – thinking to get him out of the road. The two girls however don't want him to go now. The whole thing ends happily with all good friends.

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4

A Script for Sock Puppets

Characters:

- 1 girl puppet
- 3 boy puppets
- 1 teacher puppet

The Story:

One boy is on his way to school when he is picked on by two other boys, who tease him and bully him. At this point, the girl appears. She realises what is happening and comes to his defence. At this point, the teacher arrives and asks what is going on. The bullies lie about what they have been doing. The victim boy is too embarrassed to admit that he has been bullied, but the girl speaks up – putting the blame on the two bullies.

The teacher pronounces judgement – all three boys will play together every play time for a week – and if there is any more bullying, the two bullies will be in trouble. She also forces them to apologise. The bullies apologise – and invite the victim boy to come play with them right away.