

How to Create a Stuffed Animal Hand Puppet

Materials Needed:

Stuffed animal with neck large enough for a hand to go through
Small piece of felt (for inside of mouth)
Piece of fake fur to match fur color of stuffed animal's chin
Polyester stuffing or old stockings
Large tube sock
Needle and thread
Seam ripper

Directions:

1. Open the back or tail end seam of the stuffed animal (where you want hand to enter). *See Fig. 1.*
2. Remove stuffing to make room for hand inside puppet.
3. Make bottom lip by cutting a small tongue shaped piece from the felt and fur. Sew with right sides together, leaving flat end open. *See Fig 2.*
4. Turn bottom lip right side out.
5. Cut slit in animal's chin where mouth will be placed. Use the bottom lip you just made to get placement correct. *See Fig. 3.*
6. Sew the bottom lip into place making sure to you leave an opening for your thumb to go into the lip. (Sew top of lip to top of slit and bottom of lip to bottom of slit.)
7. Restuff the animal to regain shape but to allow enough room for a hand.
8. Add a lining by inserting a large tube sock into the head. Sew the end of the sock to the opening of the puppet. To help guide your hand into the lining tack the lining in a few areas around the puppet's face to keep it in place. *See Fig. 4.*

Now your puppet is ready to perform. Get used to moving your puppet's mouth. Try to move the bottom lip up and down with your thumb instead of moving the upper part of the mouth. Practice in front of the mirror to figure out movements that really help your puppet come to life.

Have Fun!

