



Discovery Time: Shadows



Introduction

When the sun is shining, shadows are all around us. But what about inside? When an object passes in front of a light, it creates a shadow. Puppets are a great way to experiment with shadows.

Early Literacy Connection

- Using puppets to tell stories develops your child's language skills and vocabulary. This also teaches your child about story structure—that all stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. As you play puppets together, ask questions to help them elaborate on their story.
- Encourage your child to retell a favorite story using puppets. This helps with reading comprehension and builds sequencing skills through the use of words like 'first', 'next' and 'then'.
- Playing with puppets encourages your child's imagination. Making puppets together encourages creativity and is a great bonding activity.



STEAM Connections

- **Science:** The scientific method involves making a guess about what will happen during an experiment. This is known as a hypothesis. You then test your hypothesis and observe what happens.
- **Art:** Art helps children practice eye-hand coordination. This activity helps your child practice hand and finger control, which helps them develop writing skills. Art activities stimulate all your child's sense and their brain, creating connections and wiring in the brain for future successful learning

Supplies

- Dark paper
- Glue
- Surface on which to cast your shadows
- Template or stencils
- Flashlight
- Scissors
- Craft sticks

Instructions

1. Make your puppet: You can use a stencil, make your own, or find a template online to trace onto dark paper
2. Cut out your puppet from the paper, and glue your puppet onto a craft stick
3. Play with your puppet: Retell a favorite story with your puppet. Hold it in front of the light and experiment moving it around. What do you see?

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Review

As your child plays with their puppets, encourage them to explore ways to change their shadows. Ask your child to make a hypothesis about what they think will happen if they put their puppet close to the light. Once they have their hypothesis, test it out! Talk about what happens. Try it again to see if the same thing happens. Then, ask them more questions:

- What happens if you put your puppet far away from the light?
- When you put your puppet close to the light, does it get blurry or does it become more focused?

Encourage your child to retell a favorite story using puppets. This helps with reading comprehension and builds sequencing skills through the use of words like 'first', 'next' and 'then'. Playing with puppets encourages your child's imagination. Making puppets together encourages creativity and is a great bonding activity.

Additional Information

Explore additional learning concepts on our [website](#) and blog [Plano Library Learns/Early Learning](#), including information about library databases for each aspect of STEAM