



# Heart Finger Puppets

## Episode 14

### Introduction

Did you know that playing pretend develops literacy skills? It's true! Pretending develops a child's storytelling abilities, also known as narrative skills, an important early literacy stepping stone. Finding ways to encourage your child to play pretend is important.

These easy heart finger puppets are great for playing pretend and practicing color recognition; plus, they make a great Valentine to give to a friend and share a love for literacy!



### Supplies

- Craft foam sheets
- Pipe cleaners
- Googly eyes
- Fine permanent marker
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

### Instructions

1. Cut out foam hearts & draw faces on them: Cut hearts out of the craft foam (use our attached template if you'd like) and decorate with funny faces. This is a great time to use some glue to add googly eyes!
2. Attach pipe cleaners: Cut several pipe cleaners in half. Use one of the pipe cleaners' sharp endpoints to poke through the bottom of a foam heart. Pull about an inch of the pipe cleaner through the hole you've made, then bend it down and twist the pipe cleaner together. Don't forget to bend back the free end of the pipe cleaner to get rid of that sharp point!
3. Wrap it around a marker to create a little spiral with the pipe cleaner so that the finger puppet will fit on your child's finger.

### Additional Resources

Visit Plano Public Library's official [YouTube channel](#) to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at [Plano Library Learns](#)

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### Instructions, continued



Draw faces on the hearts.



Poke the pipe cleaner through the foam heart...



...and twist the pipe cleaner together.



Twist around a marker.

### How to Use Your Heart Finger Puppets

Put on the finger puppets and create stories and characters for them with your child! To get the fun started, choose a few finger puppets and sing this easy color rhyme (to the tune of "Skip my Lou"):

Little red heart, I love you.  
Little red heart, I love you.  
Little red heart, I love you.  
Pink one says, "I do too!"

Little pink heart, I love you.  
Little pink heart, I love you.  
Little pink heart, I love you.  
Blue one says, "I do too!"...

Continue the rhyme with each color of finger puppet you've made; see the rhyme card printable on page 3. Don't forget to play pretend with your finger puppets as well and develop narrative skills! You can also use these instructions to create other finger puppets for shapes, animals, people—the possibilities are endless, just like your child's imagination.

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