

# 4-H Training Topics - Theatre Arts

## Background:

This project covers the skills necessary for children and youth to develop their imagination through creative arts. There are four Project Guides.

## Resource:

**Rod Puppets, 4-H Imagination in Action, Become a Puppeteer!, page 12.**

## Materials Needed:

4-H **Project Guides** or copy of lesson for each CYPA. Wooden spoons, 12” dowels, rulers, skewers, construction paper, fabric scraps, yarn, ribbon, decorations, crayons, markers, scissors, puppets, dolls, action figures.

Cost: \$15 if you need to buy the “rods,” but try to use materials on hand

## Preparation Time:

Review the 4-H **Guide**, collect needed materials; visit the location where you will have the training.

Arrange the tables, chairs, materials.

Allow 30 minutes for preparation and set-up.



## 1 Opening Activity

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Put out a variety of puppets as well as items that can be used as puppets. (Have craft materials available for decorating these items) Ask the first person to arrive to select a puppet, and make up a story about how the two of them got to the training. Ask that person to explain the same thing to others as they arrive. Early birds will have first choice of puppets and more time to be creative.	Now that the puppets are made everyone, puppets included, should mingle explaining to others how both got to the training. Meet as many people and puppets as possible in five minutes.	5

## 2 Curriculum

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Introduce the 4-H <b>Project Guides</b> . Show the four guides.	<p>Thank you for coming. Today we’re going to focus on the Puppetry portion of the 4-H <i>Theatre Arts</i> project. This project is for children in grades 4 -12. Each book has many activities to help children or youth learn about imagination, creative arts, informal drama, puppetry, and stagecraft. It’s not necessary to be a great actor or puppeteer. An interest in the subject and in working with youth is all that is needed!</p> <p>Almost everyone likes to play with puppets. Today we’re going to focus on making a rod puppet and telling its story. This activity can be done during one club session, or it can be done multiple times after a new idea or technique is introduced.</p>	1

# 4-H Training Topics - Theatre Arts

## 3 Staff Introductions

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
All participants should introduce themselves. If group members don't know each other or the trainer, allow more time – but try to stay on schedule. If the group is large ask everyone to introduce themselves and select one or two to share an example.	Let's take a few minutes to get to know each other. Please introduce yourself and give one example of an experience with puppets.	3

## 4 Doing an Activity

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>Divide the group in thirds by assigning everyone one of three animals - dog, bird, or fish. Tell them they are each going to make their own rod puppet and create its personality.</p> <p>Check to see if people need any materials or have questions.</p>	For this activity all of the “dogs” should work together, all the “birds” together, and all of the “fish” together. Today there's about ten minutes to make a puppet. This is less time than children will have. Don't worry about finishing the puppet now just get it started. While working think about this puppet's personality. Everyone will be showing their puppet to the group shortly.	10

## 5 Sharing Ideas

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>If the group is small - ten or less- ask each person to present their puppet and show its personality to the whole group. Ask for questions.</p> <p>If the group is larger divide into smaller groups being sure to mix the dogs, birds, and fish. Ask everyone to share in their small group.</p>	<p>Now its time to show off the puppets' personalities. Take about a minute each, and let's see what happens.</p> <p>What kind of mood is the puppet in? How old is it? Is it a boy or girl? Is it friendly, grumpy, happy, shy, outgoing? Is the puppet a famous character or an original creation?</p>	10

## 6 Applying the Experience

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Apply this experience to other activities.	What was learned from this activity that can be applied to an experience this week? Does it need to be changed for children/youth? Was this a useful experience? How could it be changed to be more useful? What other resources are needed?	5

# 4-H Training Topics - Theatre Arts

## 7 Making a Plan

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Make a plan for starting the <i>Theatre Arts</i> Project.	<p>Now it's time to work as a group and set some dates for project meetings. When should the project meetings start with the youth? What ideas from this training will be used? Who will be the adult project leader? When should another planning meeting be held that includes youth?</p> <p>As the group plans consider all of the resources available. For example, be sure to utilize the Tech Lab and the Lab Lead.</p>	5

## 8 Closing

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Summarize and close.	<p>Today we have taken a quick look at the <i>Theatre Arts</i> curriculum, completed a project that can be used with youth and begun planning for project meetings. This curriculum can be used with other 4-H projects such as photography, woodworking, and arts and crafts and can be used for creative activities for babysitting and being home alone.</p> <p>Get ideas from the children or youth, and plan about ten activities for the project. The 4-H project materials all have lots of activities that can be turned into lesson plans and are fun for adults and children.</p> <p>This activity fits into the Arts, Recreation and Leisure service area.</p> <p>Are there any questions?</p> <p>Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm.</p>	1

