Make Shadow Puppets

Creating a shadow puppet is fun and easy!

What are the characters and stories you want to bring to life?

The following instructions are for kids 5+ to make a shadow puppet with a moving limb. But the activity can be modified for younger kids skipping the moving limb (step 3) and simply taping a popsicle stick on a cut silhouette.

Instructions

1. Draw your puppet character outline on the cardstock
2. Cut out the character and tape a popsicle stick behind it
3. Optional: If you want to add a moving limb, reference the photo instructions below
4. To activate your shadow puppet, set your puppet stage with a light source
   - There are many ways to do this. The simplest is shining a flashlight against a clear wall.
   - Experiment to see how the shadow puppet can look differently depending on how far you are from the wall or the light source
5. Play with your shadow puppets and imagine a story!

(Step 3) How to add moving limbs

Draw and cut two pieces showing Nara’s main body and arm

Make a hole (using the paper fastener or scissors) where Nara’s body meets the arm

Work together and be careful using sharp objects

Insert the paper fastener to join Nara’s arm to the body

And tape the popsicle sticks to Nara’s arm and body (on the back side)