

Portable Puppet Theater



Needed:

Sturdy box about the width of your lap

Strong scissors

Double sided foam tape

Stick puppets

Approximately 8" of sticky Velcro

Approximately 6" of one-inch wide ribbon

Cut the top flaps and back off the box. Cut along the bottoms of the sides toward the front. Cut the sides on a slant, resulting in triangle shapes. The two sides should fold easily behind the front and the bottom will fold up, resulting in a flat theater. Decorate the front and sides by gluing on wrapping or other colored paper. Glue ribbon, glitter or other decorations on the front. Add a sign if desired - "Puppet Playhouse" - or something like that.

Cut four two-inch lengths of hook Velcro. Center one each on the bottom of a side flap. Staple them on thoroughly. Cut two four-inch lengths of the latch Velcro. Center each one over the hook Velcro and extend them onto the bottom of the box, stapling them into place.

Cut the ribbon in half. Peel the backing off the latch Velcro pieces and center a length of ribbon over each, extending the ribbon about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the Velcro for use as a handle to pull the theater apart.

Place each of the remaining two-inch lengths of hook Velcro on the front sides of the theater, matching their positions to the other pieces of Velcro. When the theater is flattened, the latch Velcro should be long enough to attach to these front pieces and keep the theater closed.

Cut a piece of double stick foam tape the width of the front of the theater. Place it along the back of the theater, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top. Keep the protective cover on the tape, removing only when ready for a performance. This will keep the tape (and theater) from sticking to places you don't want it to.

Create stick puppets of your own design or use patterns from resources such as flannelboard stories. When you're ready for the show, remove the protective tape cover and stick the puppets to the tape as needed, replacing it when the show is over.

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