

## Puppet Play

### Did you know that puppets can...

- ♥ Help children to explore different feelings and behaviours
- ♥ Enable children to take on different perspectives
- ♥ Provide opportunities for children to develop insights of themselves and their peers
- ♥ Empower children with skills to read social and emotional cues
- ♥ Develop in children a sense of empathy

Children love pretend play! Imagining and creating stories and scenarios. Puppets are a great teaching resource for educators to build young children's social and emotional skills.

Through puppet play, educators can help children to understand and regulate their emotions and behaviours, be empathetic, and build positive relationships.

While the children are engaged and having fun with the puppets, there are several other benefits. Puppet play can stimulate children's development in many aspects – creativity, thinking, problem-solving, language and communication skills.



Here is a set of puppet characters created specially for educators to support children's social and emotional development.

These characters embody special dispositions and qualities such as confidence, serenity, empathy and being respectful and responsible.



## Tips for using the Puppets:

**Introduce the characters.** Describe the characteristics of each puppet. Talk about what it means to be confident, serene, empathetic, respectful and responsible.

**Plan a puppet show.** Together with the children, make a puppet stage with props from recycled materials. Plan for a puppet show using the different characters.

**Dedicate a character week.** Children can have an entire week exploring the character's traits, values and dispositions. Create a 'feelings' wall chart to expand children's emotional vocabulary.

**Visit the library.** Borrow books that are relatable to each of the puppet characters. As you read the stories, encourage children to identify the feelings and emotions. Ask open-ended questions to extend thinking, such as "How do you think the character is feeling?", "Why do you say that?".

**Role play.** Children can create their own stories or scenarios for each puppet character. Help children process their feelings in managing certain situations. For instance, children to suggest ways of managing a specific emotion such as when they are angry or sad.

## ♥ Meet our characters! ♥

### Confi-Dan



Confi-Dan is charming and confident. He is very comfortable in his own skin and high-pitched voice. He is aware of his strengths. He sees the good in others because he believes that everyone is unique.

#### Unique Qualities:

Self-awareness and positive self-concept

### Serene-itty



Serene-itty is always calm and peaceful. She manages her emotions by channeling her energy to her mind and heart. Whenever she needs to react to a situation, she pauses for a while, closes her magical eyes to think, and then touches her heart to feel. This makes her stronger and wiser, ready for any challenge.

#### Unique Qualities:

Self-control of feelings and behaviour

### Reese-pectful



Reese-pectful loves to interact with everyone – regardless of how they look like, their abilities, language, culture or where they come from. Her mission is to reach out to as many people as she can and unite them.

#### Unique Qualities:

Being socially aware and having respect for diversity

### Fee-Ling



Fee-Ling always looks for ways to connect with others. She's sincere and willing to listen to anyone. She likes building relationships. It is easy for her to understand how others feel and be empathetic. Always with a big smile and encouraging spirit, she's ready to be your friend anytime.

#### Unique Qualities:

Managing relationships through communication and positive interactions

### Razz-possible



Razz-possible is thoughtful and kind in his words and actions. He thinks carefully before he acts or speaks, and strives to do the right thing. He owns up to his mistakes, learning to do better next time – and this makes him wiser.

#### Unique Qualities:

Responsible decision-making and takes responsibility for one's actions

♥ Calling all educators! ♥

Tell us how you can use the five different finger puppets to strengthen children's social-emotional development. Share with us your activities with the children using the puppets. Send your stories and photos to [Partnerships@ecda.gov.sg](mailto:Partnerships@ecda.gov.sg) with your name, centre's name and contact details. Your work could be featured in the next issue of Beanstalk Magazine!