

SOCK CHALLENGE

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Make your own muppet style puppet from an old sock.

- 1.** Choose an old odd sock for your character, a longer one is good although two different socks can be added together to extend the length.
- 2.** Design a puppet around your sock. Think about the texture or patterns on the sock that may give your puppet its character. Think of features and accessories you would add. Your design may change during the making process and this is ok because you may have new ideas along the way.
- 3.** Cut an oval shape from a piece of card (card from a cereal box works well).
- 4.** Cut a slightly bigger oval shape from foam. Fold the cardboard shape in half. Cut the foam shape in half.
- 5.** Turn your sock inside out. Glue the folded card around the toe part of the inside out sock.
- 6.** Glue the curved bits of foam and card together (you will need strong glue for this so ask an adult to help you: you could use a glue gun, superglue or gaffa tape) making a pocket on either side of the fold to put your fingers in to create the mouth movement of your puppet.
- 7.** Turn your sock the right way round so the foam and card is on the inside making the shape of the puppet's head and its opening mouth.

Inspired by a love of Nature, Mandy creates characters and their movements, experimenting with knitting, crochet and embroidery techniques. She has recently created 'Wired, Wild and Alive' a sensory, magical exhibition for children to explore and a menagerie of wonderful creatures to engage with.

Mandy is passionate about bringing her characters to life through performance and telling their stories, creating experiences that bring her love of art and nature together to create something fresh and exciting for children.



- 8.** Add eyes and a nose: you could use ping pong balls, pompoms, buttons, recycled lids, googly eyes and beads. Ears can be made with felt or funky foam. Again, you might need super glue for these or you could even try your hand at sewing!
- 9.** How about adding a bit of character to your puppet now? For example, you could make your puppet be a DJ with a cap and headphones!
- 10.** Now name your puppet, this way you can use it as your inspiration for writing a story about your puppet or maybe a play if you make several puppets or get together with friends.

WANT TO DO MORE?

- Research and explore different styles of puppetry.
- If you want to do more, you could think about how you could make puppets out of other garments such as an old glove.
- Think about other things you could make with odd socks like sock monkeys or sock pigs. Once you get creative, you'll have lots of ideas!