



## LESSON 4 LEVEL A PUPPETS

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

modeling with salt-clay.

**RESOURCES:** Any simple 3-D puppets or pictures of such toys.

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

salt-clay (see recipe in [Tips](#);) a 25.5 to 30 cm (10" to 12") stick; scraps of cloth; pencil; cloves, peppercorns, etc; macaroni; yarn; string; glue; masking or plastic tape.

### "TIPS":

One batch of salt-clay makes a ball about the size of an orange. This is enough for one child for most projects. Concentrated food coloring or liquid tempera paint may be mixed into the water or the dough may be left white and painted later.

**Recipe:** In a small pan stir together **100 gm of salt**  
**120 gm of corn starch**  
**60 ml water**

**(1/2 cup of salt;**  
**1/2 cup of cornstarch and**  
**1/4 cup of water.)** Cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring constantly. When it

## SALT-CLAY STICK PUPPETS Making Simple Puppets from "Kitchen Materials"



Italian puppets

### GETTING STARTED:

Practice with a small piece of salt-clay. Just play with it. Get to know this material before you try to make the puppet head.

1. Roll a piece of salt-clay into a ball about the size of a golf ball.
2. Pinch and form tiny bits of salt-clay (colored or white) to make the puppet's features. Use a pencil or nail to poke in some textures. Or push in cloves, peppercorns, or small macaroni to make eyes, nose or teeth.
3. To make hair, a beard, or a mustache, yarn or string can be glued on when the clay is dry. Tape a square scrap of gathered fabric around the stick. Fasten it with plastic or masking tape.



thickens to a solid, place it on a piece of foil or a plate. Let it cool slightly. Then knead it thoroughly. Wrap it tightly in foil or plastic wrap if it is to be kept (a short while) and re-knead it to make it soft again. Salt-clay will air-dry to rock hardness without baking. Wire, macaroni, shells, feathers and such objects may be embedded in soft salt-clay. When it is dry, it may be painted with tempera or watercolors or glazed with liquid plastic. Another alternative: Reserve half the batch white and color small

4. When the puppet head is finished, let an adult help you. Carefully put the stick into the head.

5. Make at least one more puppet so you can put on a puppet show. Wait two or three days until the salt-clay is dry.



Danny Age 6

### **WORDS TO LEARN:**

gather: pull together in folds  
props: things used in putting on a play

**CLEAN-UP:** Return leftover materials to storage. Throw away the rest of the salt-clay dough.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Make up names for the puppets. Create scenes for them to act out. What "props" might be needed? A dunce cap? A shawl or a handkerchief? Think about how the puppets' voices should sound. What might they say to each other?

**CONNECTIONS:** 1. Make up a story and put on a puppet show with some friends.

2. Act out part of the story from a favorite book.

3. Listen to someone tell or read the story of a famous puppet, Pinocchio.