

MAKING SHADOW PUPPETS

With made or found objects

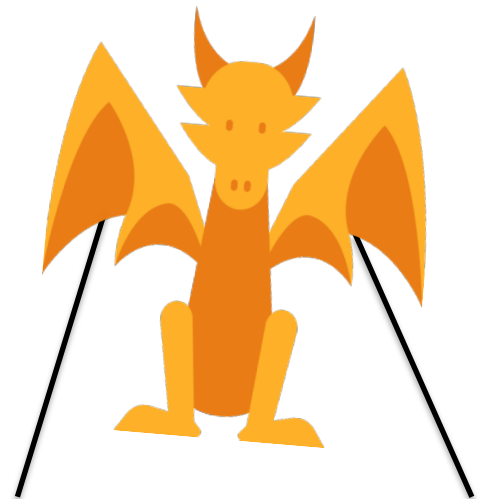
What parent-child activity requires imagination, a knowledge of lighting and "camera" angles and special effects? TV? Well, yes, but also a more ancient, simpler art, shadow puppetry.

Actor/writer Timothy Gosley, who has worked as a puppeteer on shows like Sesame Street, thinks his shadow puppet shows are a lot like television work.

A shadow puppet play can be "produced" in the home, a classroom, or any darkened room anywhere, using two and three dimensional props from an old toy chest or junk drawer or dollar store or even your own hands. All that is needed is a source of lighting (a flashlight or a small inexpensive halogen lamp) and a rear projection screen, rice paper screen, or just a wall. Experiment with this simple, captivating form of theatre with your child:

ENTER THE DRAGON

- * You can create a scary effect by drawing a two-dimensional dragon, cutting it out and attaching it to a stick. Cut eye holes and cover with red acetate. Then move a flashlight back and forth behind it.
- * Decorate the dragon with shiny bits and pieces of foil from old holiday decorations to create another kind of special effect.
- * Angel Hair over the "lair" will create yet another kind of effect.



Shadow puppetry: Inexpensive, creative fun that teaches a child about techniques used in the electronic media. Who would have guessed?

CAUTION: adult supervision is needed with lamps.

explore further

The Art of Puppetry at the Canadian Museum of History:
theatre.museedelhistoire.ca

