

CREATE YOUR OWN SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE PLAY

Using this shadow puppet set, create your own shadow puppet play!

Download and print these silhouettes of *four children of different ages, two adults, desk, front of house, cake, balloons, gift, ball, dog, scooter, bush, and playground.*

Examples of stories you can stage with this set include meeting new people, buying something at the shops, playing on the playground, interacting with a child, approaching a dog on a walk, greeting adults, going for a play date, going to a birthday party, and hosting a birthday party.

The number of stories you can create does not end here though—you can make as many as you want! To get you started, on the following pages, you will find two story scripts – Going to a Birthday Party and Meeting New People.

Use them as a guide for putting on a shadow puppet play, but feel free to change whatever parts you want.

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STORY #1: GOING TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY



I've been invited to a friend's birthday party! When it's time for the party, I put on my clean clothes, take a present and go to my friend's house. Sometimes parents are invited to stay, and sometimes the party is just for kids – in that case, my parents will drop me off and pick me up later.

Mom: Bye! Have a good time, and I'll see you in two hours.

Me: Bye!

My friend's house may look different inside when I come for the birthday party. There may be balloons, people dressed up, or music playing. There will be other boys and girls around. Some of them I know, and some of them I see for the first time.

If I know someone, I can say, "Hi! How is it going?"

If I don't know someone, I can say, "Hi! What's your name?"

Then we can play together.

When I see my friend, I will give my friend the gift I brought.

Me: "Happy birthday!"

My friend: "Thank you!"

My friend may open the present right away or later, together with presents from other children. There will be toys and books inside of the presents. If I like something, I can say, "That's a great gift!" I will try not to feel bad or jealous– when it's my birthday, I will get presents too. If I like something very much, I can tell my parents about it later.

There may be some fun activities at the party for everyone to participate in. I may make crafts or play games. My friend's parents will tell us what to do. If nothing special is happening, I can just play the way I usually do when I have a playdate with my friends.

At some point, all the guests will be invited to have cake. We will gather around the table and sing a birthday song to my friend.

All children together: Happy birthday to you!

Then my friend will blow the candles out, and my friend's parents will cut the cake and give everyone a piece. I'll wait for my turn patiently.

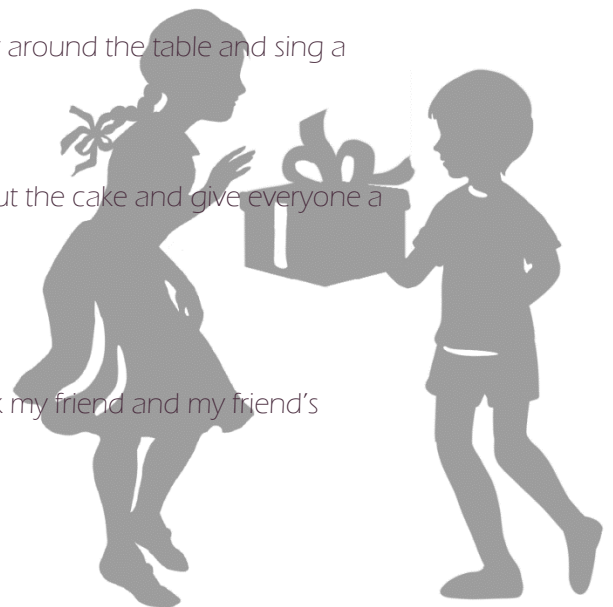
My friend's parent: Here is some cake for you.

Me: Thank you.

Soon, it will be time to go. I can congratulate my friend again and thank my friend and my friend's parents for the fun party

Me: Happy birthday again! Thanks for inviting me.

My friend: Thanks for coming! See you soon.



STORY #2: MEETING NEW PEOPLE

You see lots of new people every day. If you go to the shop, ride a bus, or simply walk down the street, you will likely meet someone new. You don't talk to them in most situations, but there are situations that allow you to turn strangers into friends!

It's a good idea to introduce yourself to new people if you're in the same class together or if you meet someone new at your friend's birthday party. If you play with someone at the playground and have a good time, you can try to make friends.

When you are meeting new people and introducing yourself, try to look in the eyes of the new person and speak clearly.

You: Hi! I am Jake. What's your name?

Other child: My name is Olivia.

You may ask more questions about your new friend. Here are some questions you can ask about your new friend: "How old are you? Do you have brothers or sisters? Do you have pets? Do you like to read/play sports/watch cartoons? What is your favourite book/sport/cartoon?"

You: How old are you?

Other child: I am seven.

Your new friend may also want to ask you questions. Try to answer the best you can.

Asking each other questions will help you find out what you have in common and what kind of games you would both enjoy. If you both like soccer, you can play with a ball. If you both like the same book, you can pretend you are characters from the book.

If you like playing with your new friend, before it's time for you to go, you can exchange contact information with your new friend or ask your parents to do so. Then you two could meet and play again!



HOW TO MAKE SHADOW PUPPETS

MATERIALS

- black card stock: 150 gsm is our favourite paper weight for puppets; 120 gsm is a little thin, but may be easier for cutting with scissors and a hobby knife
- bamboo skewers for sticks
- tape or glue for attaching sticks
- puppet designs: you will find puppet designs to be in PNG format – that way, you can use them for printing on paper and cutting by hand or for importing into the software of a silhouette cutting machine

One shadow puppet takes about ten minutes!

You can try making puppets in the following ways:

1. By cutting them with scissors and a hobby knife. Scissors are good for cutting outlines, and the hobby knife helps for cutting the inside parts. Want to cut a straight line? Try a ruler and a hobby knife combination!
2. By using a silhouette cutting machine. Works well if you have access to a machine. Use the PNG format provided.
3. By printing the designs on printable transparent film.

TIPS:

Print the silhouettes on black paper

Best tools for cutting are:

- standard scissors for cutting out general shapes and straight lines
- precision manicure scissors for cutting out tiny details
- hobby knife for cutting out inner design

