Puppets

Overview

To help staff explore how their outdoor space can inspire movement, imagination and enquiry by using animal puppets as prompts for nature-based play.



Activities

Each staff member chooses or is handed a puppet – the puppet becomes their voice and guide. Staff introduce their puppet – "I'm Willow the Worm, and I love dark, squishy soil!"

One person calls out prompts inspired by different animals and staff move around the space and respond in character.
E.g. Bird – where can you perch like a bird?

Equipment

- Puppets or animal images
- Prompt card images – tree, soil, plant.

Key Questions for the Puppets

Where do you live?
How do you get to your home? Climb, dig, fly.
What do you like doing?
Where is your favourite place to explore?

Learning Outcomes

Puppets lower inhibitions, spark imagination and help adults see the environment from a child's perspective – curious, playful and full of possibilities.
To explore physical actions in the natural world.

Progression in Learning

- Staff pair up. One staff member shares a problem for their puppets. e.g "I am a worm, and the ground is too dry – where should I go?"
- The pair explore the space to find a solution.