

My Child Development Class has really enjoyed learning and playing with the puppets I was able to purchase as a result of receiving funds for the last grant I wrote. "Playing With Puppets" provides a puppet for each letter of the alphabet and is a great asset to our class as we use them to learn the letters of the alphabet. Puppets like B Ballerina, J Jaguar, H Horse, P Pig are fun to look at and play with. We use these daily during morning instruction as we review and learn letters of the alphabet. Children also choose the puppet center everyday during center time. Children are not only using them to learn the letters of the alphabet, but they are also using them to tell stories and put on plays for others to enjoy. We are noticing increased communication between students, increased vocabulary, and a lot of creativity as they play with the puppets. Puppets help children with problem solving skills, social and emotional development, and builds self confidence. Some of my students that are normally very quiet are finding their voice as they pretend and play with puppets. As children play with puppets, they are also learning letters and developing their language skills. Occasionally, a student will call me to come over and watch them perform with their puppets. Play is a very important part of a child's success, and as their teacher, it is so rewarding to sit back and watch them tell a make believe story with puppets.

Kim Gilley  
Johnston Elementary School



