

FINGER AND THUMB THEATRE – THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Our shows and workshops are designed to support teachers and educators in their teaching of the national curriculum – and offer opportunities to link to elements of various modules in a creative way.

We've worked in schools and nurseries for over 10 years, and both of our performers / practitioners have significant experience of working with children, including children with special needs.

Below is a list of just some of the elements of the national curriculum that teachers have linked to performances and workshops. The list is not exhaustive – in discussion with teachers and educators we can plan workshops that support your school's teaching in other areas as well.

KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 SCIENCE

Our shows and workshops offer many opportunities to link with all 4 units of this subject. Seeing how we make our shadows and designing their own puppets, children are supported to ask “what will happen if” or “why does this happen” - and to try out techniques themselves to explore the results. We demonstrate how our shadows are made, the materials we use, and the different effect each material produces. Our work provides an excellent link to “Light and Sound” in unit SC4.

KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Our workshops offer many opportunities for lessons and links to all elements of the design and technology curriculum. We support pupils to design and perform with simple puppets. Through the design process, they explore size, shape, and the characteristics of the material used, as well as how shadow and shape interact – using “measure, mark, and cut” when making their shadow puppets. By using the puppets, the children see the results of their work and have the opportunity to explore how they can change the shape of the shadow by changing the positioning of their puppet.

KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 ART AND DESIGN

As with elements from the design and technology modules in the national curriculum, during our workshops children explore the characteristics of the materials they are using, trying their own designs, and creating designs that they may choose to adapt or change as part of the creative process.

OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Our shows and workshops provide many opportunities to cross reference other elements of the curriculum, particularly English (EN1) and Mathematics (MA3).

Though our work can form very direct links to the national curriculum, it can also be used in creative ways to support almost any other lesson or theme a class is exploring – including stories, ideas, and relationship themes (friendship, etc.). We believe that the use of puppetry in the classroom is a powerful tool to help children learn and explore creatively and imaginatively.

Contact us to find out more!

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