



Do at Home Craft

This week's crafting activity... **Sock Puppets!**

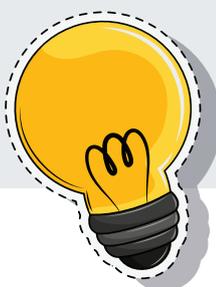
Making a sock puppet is really quite fun. The thing that makes sock puppets so fun is making each one unique. Each one can have special characteristics! And they don't have to be human - animals and aliens are great possibilities. Once you know how to make a simple sock puppet, you can even try a more advanced one! Choose some old socks and design your best looking sock puppet.

You will need:

- Socks
- Rope
- Crafts bits
- Google eyes
- Sewing bits
- Glue

Instructions:

- 1 **Find a clean sock that's long enough to cover your arm.** A crew sock or a knee sock would work great for this! The sock can be any color you like. It can be fuzzy or plain. It can even have stripes or polka dots! Just make sure there aren't any holes.
- 2 **Slip the sock over your hand.** Once you slip the sock on, make a C-shape with your hand. Put your fingers into the toe part. Try to get your thumb into the heel part. If you can't reach it, tuck the sock into the groove between your thumb and fingers. Open and close your hand. Your sock should already start looking like a puppet.
- 3 **Use a marker to make two dots above the seam for the eyes.** If you want your puppet to have a nose, make a dot for that as well.
- 4 **Take the sock off. Spread it flat on the table.** The marks for the eyes and nose may look out of place, but that's fine. This is why you made them while wearing the sock.
- 5 **Glue some eyes onto the sock.** You can do this with a hot glue gun, fabric glue, or tacky glue. For the actual eyes, you can use buttons, pompoms, or googly eyes. You can also draw the eyes on with a marker.
- 6 **Glue a small pompom just above the seam for the nose.** You can also cut a triangle or circle out of felt and use that instead. A button would also make a cute nose. If you don't have any of these, you can draw a nose on instead!
- 7 **Add some other decorations.** Your puppet is done at this point. You can still glue items onto it to give it more character. For example, you can glue some yarn to the top for hair.





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This week's crafting activity... **Rock Painting!**

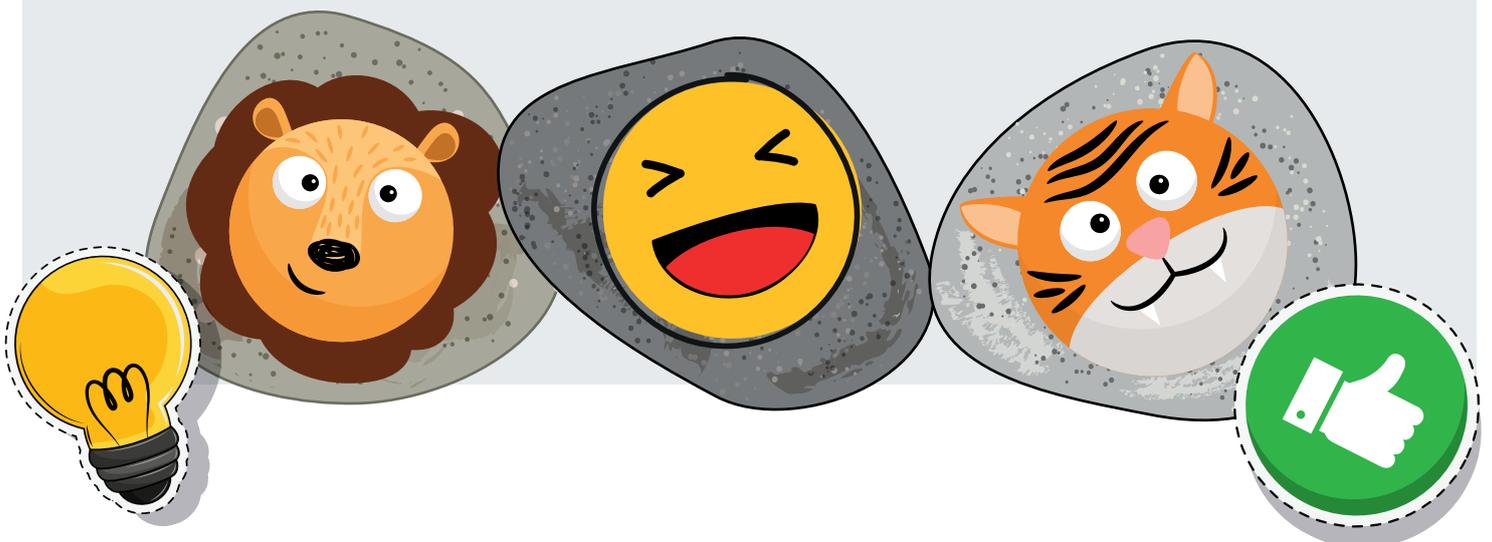
During your family walk, look out for big enough rocks to paint! Bring them home and wash them thoroughly. Paint your rock, maybe use the YMCA four core values.

You will need:

- Rocks (smooth and flat are best!)
- Mod Podge Outdoor
- Paintbrushes
- Acrylic outdoor paint
- Paint Pens
- Water basin

Instructions:

- 1 Pick smooth, flat rocks.** You can decorate any rock, but it's harder to decorate ones with ridges. If you can't find them in nature, the craft stores sell them as do home improvement centers.
- 2 Wash the rocks before painting them.** You want to remove dirt so that it doesn't mess your design. You can wash several at once with dish soap and leave in a colander to drain and dry.
- 3 Seal the rock before painting on it.** Use a clear brush on or spray sealer. This helps so that the rocks (which are porous) don't suck the life out of your markers. Another option: prime with white paint to help the colors that you paint on top appear more vibrant.
- 4 Paint your design on top and use several coats.** Let dry between layers. Use an outdoor or multi-surface paint to help them hold up to the elements.
- 5 Add details.** Use small brushes to make small details and/or dots.
- 6 Use oil based paint pens and Sharpies to write on your rocks.** These work the best for me! Just make sure to let fully dry before any writing.
- 7 Finish off your rocks with a coat (or two or three) of Mod Podge Outdoor.** This will help protect your beautiful painted rocks from the elements.





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This week's crafting activity... **Den Building!**

Turn a bedroom or living room into a den! Use your children and create the best indoor dens you possibly can. Share your dens online using **#YMCAChildcareDenBuilding**.

You will need:

- Sheets
- Chairs
- Boxes
- Mattresses
- Tables
- Sofa cushions

Instructions:

- 1 **The Den-Building Space Decision.** Make it as big as you can afford to use, bearing in mind they'll want that den up for some time, and pop down a play-mat or similar for added indoor fun.
- 2 **The Chair Positioning.** Ideally, use a few chairs of differing heights. Physics qualifications help here, as you need to get just the right distances apart to make a good size den, without the roof collapsing, or pegs shooting off if too tight – see next stage.
- 3 **The Blanket Drape.** A tricky one. You'll find it will keep flopping and flapping about as you drag chairs and try to fix it. I'd recommend using pegs, so hoping your chairs will accommodate them. Yes, the pegs will ping right off when the toddler starts tugging on the blanket, but it's all part of the experience. If you also have a play-tent, now's the time to maximise it and add an extension to the den. It becomes a two room affair then!
- 4 **The Interior Design.** Now, you'd be forgiven for thinking that den-building is complete at step 3, as I have left it there in the past and still had two very contented small ones. But, to really crank that excitement up a notch, you need to kit out the inside, too. In this case, I popped a few cars and trains on the play mat, and then set up a little tea party inside the tent. I can assure you that such added touches are very well-received.
- 5 **The Fun.** Please, whatever you do, don't leave it at step 4. Get in there with them and play yourself. A parent is usually a little ones favourite toy of all. It is fun, and if I don't go in, I don't get to see these little faces.





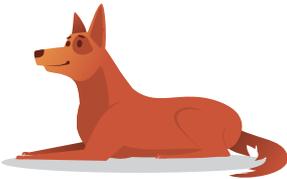
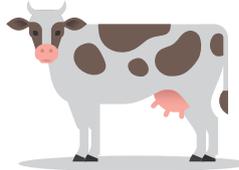
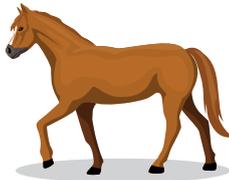
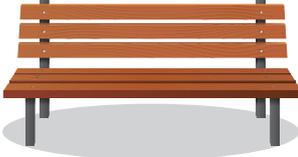
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This week's activity... **Walking Bingo!**

This game is designed for all the family to join in with. You can either use the board provided or create your own walking bingo board.

How the game works: When you are out for your family walk, you have to keep a look out for certain objects that are on your board. First person to mark off all their objects shouts out 'WALKING BINGO!'

Walking Bingo!

 Blue car	 Dog	 Tree	 Bird
 Bus	 Daffodils	 Pine Cone	 Cow
 Shop	 Horse	 Bin	 Taxi
 Park	 Bench	 Traffic Lights	 Daisy

