



Social and Emotional Development Activity for 24 to 30 Months

Puppet Show

Staging a puppet show is an excellent way to let children identify and label emotions. Building an emotional vocabulary helps children understand and give a name to the feelings they are experiencing.

Materials:

- Dolls
- Stuffed animals
- Hand puppets

What to do:

1. Move the couch away from the wall. Kneel out of view behind the couch and use the back as a stage area. Act out short skits using the child's dolls, stuffed animals, or hand puppets.
2. Place a card table or large empty box on its side and kneel behind it. Let the child watch as you perform a short dialogue between the puppets. Using the puppets as props, act out familiar experiences or events the child can relate to and understand.
 1. First puppet: "I feel sad. I lost my new ball."
 2. Second puppet: "Oh, it's OK. I'll help you find it."
3. Have one puppet help or console another. Talk in a high-pitched, very expressive voice. Keep your dialogues short and lively.
4. Encourage the child to join in the puppet play. Accept whatever the child is able to express, whether in gestures, sounds, or words. If the child is using words, follow that lead and listen to what is said. A child often will say much more about how he feels when talking "through" a toy or puppet in pretend play.

