

My Little Buddy FINGER PUPPETS



My Little Buddy finger puppets are available from **Puppets for Learning**. They are small, super-cute and durable. Simply slot one on to your finger, cup your hand and they will sit there quite nicely! My Little Buddy finger puppets add a bit of fun to individual sessions or whole-class learning.

You receive 6 finger puppets in the set (3 girls and 3 boys). The puppet characters chosen for your set may vary depending on availability.

Here are some ways to use Little Buddies...

- **Let young learners become teachers.**

After I have taught something to a child, I have them teach what they have learnt to their Little Buddy. * This is a great way to monitor whether my teaching has been successful. *It is empowering for a child to have a turn at being the teacher. *In the example to the right, the session involves teaching a child how to say the /k/ and /g/ sound using The Speech Sound Set pictures from Pelican Talk. After I teach the child, I then take out puppet and placing it on my hand, explain to the child that Ben doesn't know how to say these sounds. I ask the child to teach Ben using their own words. Ben listens and after several incorrect attempts is able to achieve the correct sounds. This is a great way for the child to listen for correctness, to model their new sounds, to demonstrate they know how to make them and to provide feedback. Ben can be then sent home to practise /k/ and /g/ words throughout the week.*



- **Listen to a story and answer questions.** Some students are reluctant to read. Using a Little Buddy can make all the difference. I tell the child that the Little Buddy hasn't learnt to read yet. I ask the child read to the Little Buddy and then have them ask the Little Buddy questions to check they have been listening. *Having a student generate questions is a strategy that assists reading comprehension. * Reading to the Little Buddy can reduce anxiety that some children associate with reading. *In the example to the right, Liam is on my finger and listening to a child read "The Wonky Donkey". The reader then asks Liam questions and I answer using the puppet. The puppet can go home with the child along with a different book for reading. The following day, the child uses the puppet. I ask Liam what story he had the night before and I ask some questions about it. The child answers through the puppet.*



- **Role play social skills.** My Little Buddy finger puppets are great for use in developing social skills and behaviours. Choose a social behaviour to learn about (sharing, saying sorry, asking to play, being friendly etc.), deliver some explicit teaching and then have fun with a pile of finger puppets! *Practising social interactions through the puppets allows the child to try and then discuss successful – and not so successful- behaviours. *Here we are teaching Seth all about saying sorry and accidents. After reading the story (from Social Sam www.pelicanstalk.com), two finger puppets are brought out and the social situation is rehearsed.*



- **Review what has been taught previously.** Is the child able to recall what was learnt in a previous session or is some extra teaching required? *Reviewing what has been taught previously is an important part of learning. Bring out a Little Buddy finger puppet who was “absent the previous day”. Ask the child to explain to them about something that was covered in the previous session. *In the example to the right, Sammi is learning about “Bossy E” and how it is used in spelling. Listening to the child teach Sammi gives me a good idea as to whether their learning has been successful.*



- **Make mistakes.** Children love correcting My Little Buddy when he makes mistakes. *This is a great way to engage a child who does not want to participate in a task. *In the example to the right, I am wanting the child to sequence a series of photos and then tell me the story (from Daisy Dog’s Days by Love and Reilly). The child is reluctant to participate so I pull out Zac and have him order the pictures incorrectly. He then begins telling the story incorrectly too!. Suddenly the child jumps in and corrects Zac. Usually children can’t resist!*



- **Help a child stay on task for longer.** Incorporating a Little Buddy finger puppet can make an activity more fun! Have the child take turns with the puppet. *In the example to the right, the child is working on “describing words” using the Alien Talk program. They have been asked to think of words to describe a cat. The child has Flash on his finger. The child says a word, then Flash says a word (operated by the child). This has the effect of the child staying longer on task and generating a long list of words.*



- **Engage a whole class.** Being small, My Little Buddy finger puppets can be handed out to all students in a class without being too intrusive. Students can slot them on to the finger of their non-dominant hand and can still write with the other. This allows for some fun. *In the example to the right, each child in the group is given a Little Buddy and also a card from Love and Reilly’s Box of Rimes. Each child is asked to first explain to their Little Buddy about the rime they have been given and how it helps with spelling. They are then asked to write a story incorporating their Little Buddy as the main character and as many of the rhyming words from their card as they can.*



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