



WORD BIRD



This big chicken puppet is super for exploring new words and also the concept of “word” and a word’s features.

It is a wonderful pre-literacy activity!

Added extras you may like to use: *A basket to be used as Word Bird’s nest,

*A poster featuring Word Bird’s picture and the words “Today’s word is...” (A3 size), laminated.

Ideas for use:

1. Before you begin the session, choose an interesting word for the day. The word is more meaningful if it is taken from a book that you have shared or a current play theme. Use a range of words including adjectives (describing words) and verbs (doing words).

Let’s use in this example, the word *ravenous* from the picture book “The Ravenous Beast” by Niamh Sharkey.

2. Print the word neatly in lowercase on a strip of paper, fold it up and put it in the egg that came with your puppet.

3. Bring out Word Bird. Reinforce the concept of “word” by saying something like: “I wonder what word our Word Bird will lay today in her egg?”

4. Using your puppet, make Word Bird lay an egg. When she has finished, nominate a child to find the egg under the chicken. (Children find this hilarious).

5. Unfold the paper and show the children the word as you read it. Say to the children “This word is... *ravenous*.” Have children copy the word.

6. Next ask Word Bird: “What does “*ravenous*” mean?” Have Word Bird explain by giving an explanation using familiar words (very very hungry) and by putting it in a sentence.

7. Stick the word on the Word Bird poster. **Discuss the word.** Talk about: 1) What sound does it start with? 2) What letter does it start with? 3) Count its letters – is it a long word or a short word? 4) Clap the word. Does it have lots of syllables? 5) Does it sound like any other words? *Ravenous* sounds a bit like *dangerous*. (For shorter words, you might think of a rhyming word). 6) Think of the opposite of the word (if there is one).

8. Throughout the day, try and use the word lots. Comment at the end of the session whether you heard anyone use the word. Encourage children to use their new, special word at home!

9. Write the WORDS OF THE WEEK in each newsletter that is sent home. Encourage parents and caregivers to use the words too!

Subscribe to our blog for latest tips on using/making/learning about puppets.

Go to the blog at

www.puppetsforlearning.com.au

Or find us on social media



@puppetsforlearning



Puppets for Learning

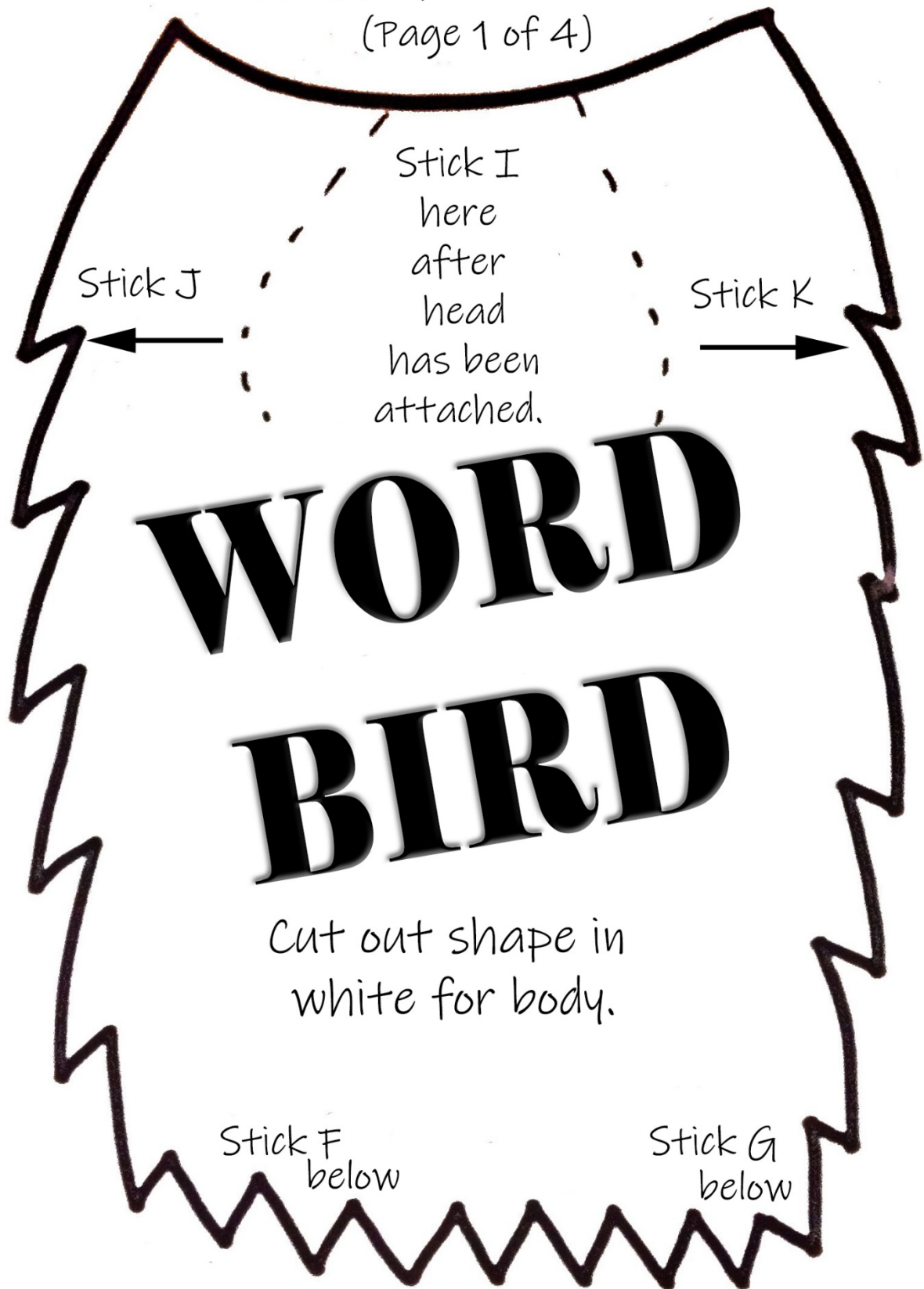


<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/handuppapuppet/puppets-for-learning/>

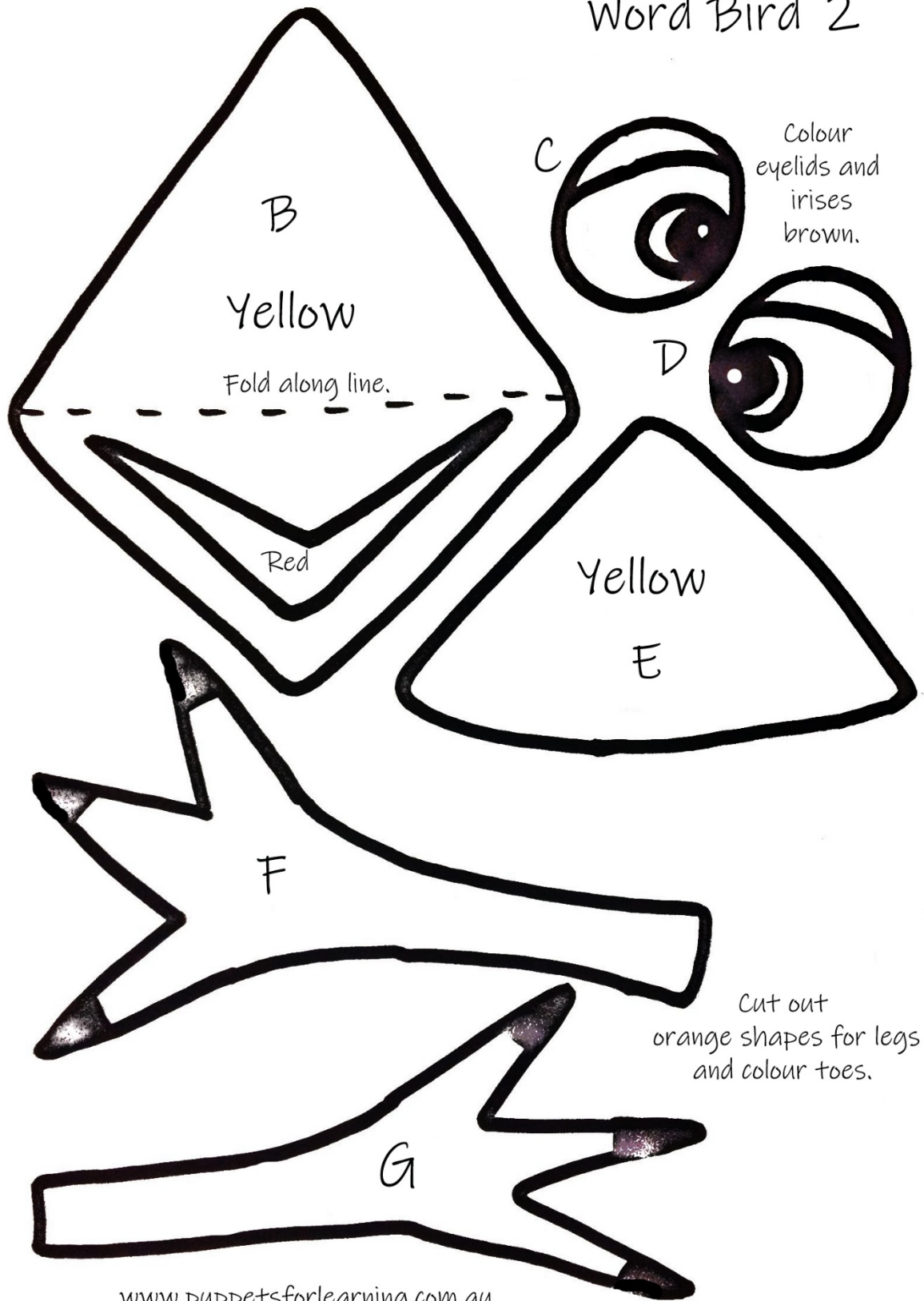


Word Bird 1

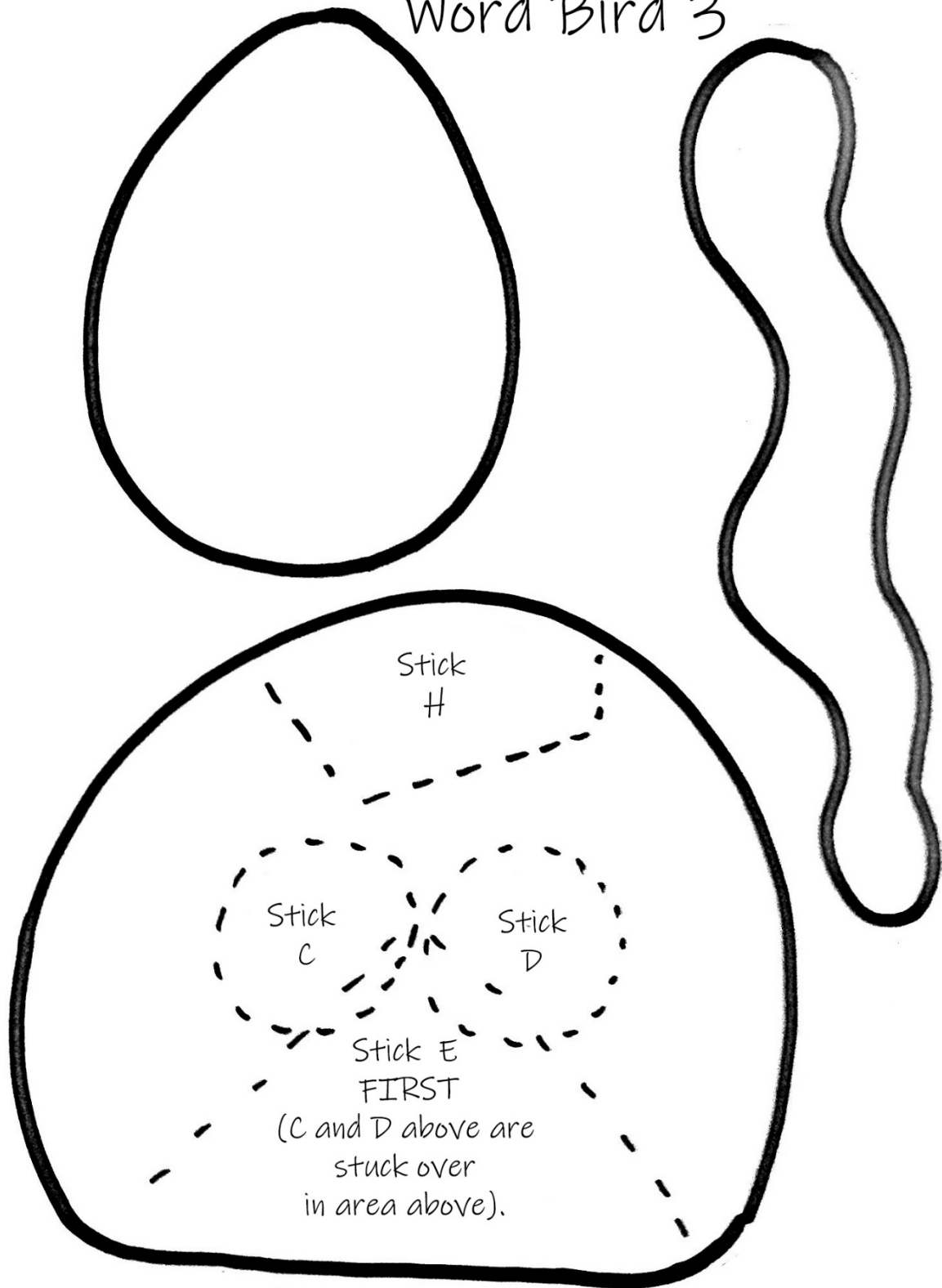
(Page 1 of 4)



Word Bird 2



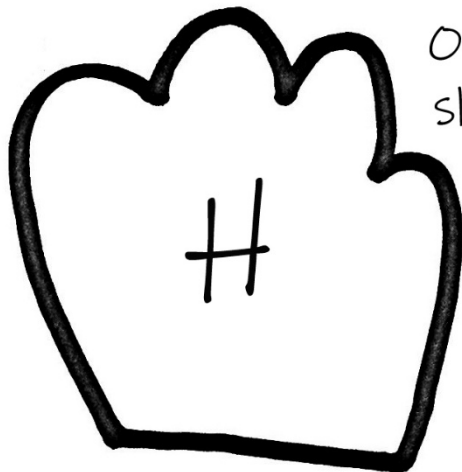
Word Bird 3



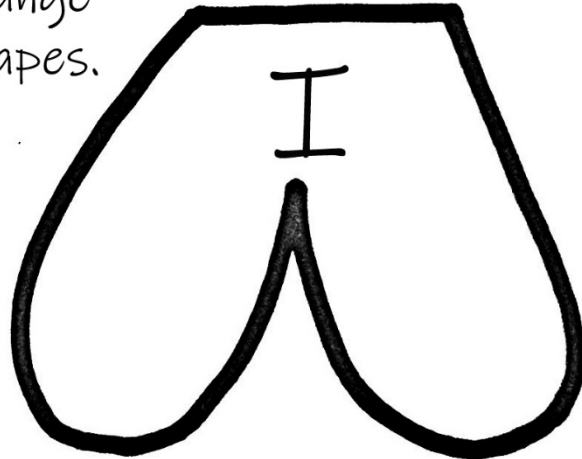
Attach body beneath this shape.
Fold of beak should sit at the join line.

www.puppetsforlearning.com.au

Word Bird 4



Orange shapes.



White shapes for wings.

