Kindergarten Puppet Theater

Students learn how to perform for an audience, as well as, how to isolate the important details of a story to retell it or summarize it.

Curriculum/State Standard
Reading 2.4 retell familiar stories, Reading 2.3 Connect to life experiences the information and events in texts, Reading 3.3 Identify characters, settings, and important events, Written and Oral Language 1.1 Recognize and use complete, coherent sentences when speaking.

Overview
This project has two components:
1) Language Arts – Students will listen to stories and then retell the stories using puppets. The project ultimately ends in a student puppet show at the end of the year.
2) Social Studies – Students will use the puppets to model appropriate social behavior (ex: tattling, friend conflicts) and learn about respectful actions.

Objectives
• The students will learn to retell a variety of stories read to them by the teacher.
• The students will learn to identify characters from a story, as well as recreate settings and important events.
• The students will use correct sentences when speaking to a group.

Materials
various stories, puppets, puppet theater

Readiness Activity
The teacher will read a story to the class. She will model using a puppet to recreate a character. If possible, the teacher will show the students a puppet show.

Strategies/Activities
After teacher reads a story to the class (ex: Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Three Little Pigs), she will take out puppets that can be used to recreate the story. Select students will be given a character from the story and, with the help of the teacher, will recreate the story in front of the class.

As the students and class become comfortable with one story, the puppets can be moved to a center, and another story can be introduced. As the year goes on, multiple stories will move, or be rotated, to centers, and other puppets, such as generic kids, animals, etc., can be introduced. These puppets can be used to tell many stories, as well as role play with the class.

Culminating Activity
At the end of the year each student will be assigned a role to a specific story which will be presented at a puppet show for other classes and parents. The show will consist of numerous puppet skits, involving all students.

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This winning project idea was submitted by:
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“Kindergarten Puppet Theater” project continued . . .

**Evaluation**
Students will be informally evaluated throughout the project by their participation during class practice and centers with the various puppet characters. They will also be evaluated during their performance preparation on teamwork, understanding of their character, and speaking ability.

Various assessments occur throughout the year regarding retelling of stories and the setting, characters, and main events of a story.