STORIES WITH STICK PUPPETS

LESSON/ACTIVITY: Stick Puppets by Kristen Marstaller

LEVEL: Lower grades K-3

SUGGESTED TIME: 2 – 30-45 min. classes to make. 45 min. – 1 hr. to perform puppet shows.

OBJECTIVES: Develop communication skills
Learn to work together in a group activity
Learning to perform in front of a group
Increase dexterity in handling art materials

MATERIALS/TOOLS:
- Tongue depressors
- Fabric scraps
- Lace, ribbon, trims
- Scissors
- White glue
- Construction paper
- Small felt-tip pens

PREPARATION: Talk about the book, Grandfather Ghandi, and recall the story when Arun was pushed during the soccer game. Talk about a time when the students may have been mad when playing a game or playing with their friends. Ask if they had ever been mean or a bully to someone or if someone had done that to them. Ask how they felt and what they did.

Divide students into groups of no more than three. Let them decide on a story that they wish to tell with their puppets that has to do with conflict. Discuss what conflict means how conflict can be resolved, the Golden Rule, walking away instead of fighting, etc..

PROCEDURE: Place all materials in boxes in center of table, within easy reach. Puppets should be of themselves or others in the story they have decided to tell.
Talk with students about body parts - - face, legs, feet, etc. Show several ways of decorating puppets - - cutting and pasting fabric scraps, construction paper, etc.
Use small felt tip pens for facial features and for adding details.

Put a sheet over a table or cover the front of the table from top to floor with paper for a puppet stage. Students will perform their story while the rest of the class sits on the floor in front of the “puppet stage”.

VOCABULARY: puppet, conflict, resolve, bully, stage, perform
**POINTERS/PITFALLS:** You will be amazed when shy, quiet children readily participate; puppets channel attention away from the child and to the puppet. You will also find your “acting stars”! An elaborate puppet stage is not necessary, although, if you have the time, a large box could be cut out and painted with fabric curtains added to be used as the puppet stage.

**VARIATIONS:** Paper bag puppets, paper plate puppets (glue on tongue depressor for handle). Box puppets or milk carton puppets (cut box on three sides so that fingers may be placed inside). Add background music. Perform for another class, invite the principal to watch the shows.