LEARNING WITH PUPPETS

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MOTIVATION

Interest in craft
Rajasthan
Potential to learn with
Enact stories
children
Introduction to Puppets

Bull
Glove Puppets
String Puppets
Rod Puppets
Shadow Puppets
LEARNING WITH Mangilal ji (craftsman, Udaipur)

String Puppets (manipulated by string) are also known as marionette puppets
Making of a String Puppet
Carving and Joinery
All figures facilitate *specific movement*:

- Some have neck movement

Bengali Jaadugar

Behrupiya
Anarkali
Anarkali - Joining detail
Visual Style: Resemblance to Rajput miniature paintings:

- Shape of beard
- Elongated eyes
- Characters male, female
- Hindu rajas
- Muslim nawabs
- Dancers like Anarkali
- Animals: elephant, snake, horse etc.
Puppets are conducive to:

Animation
Storytelling
Role play (indirect)

Aided by:
Sound
Musical instruments
Stage
Acting
Take away from the Udaipur trip

• Confident about making a puppet own my own.

• Impressed by the simple joinery and the idea of characters being enacted by the puppeteer.

• Contemporary puppets of my own identified by children in the urban setting and could be manipulated by them.

• Learn about their environment and help them express their thought and surroundings and people.

• How children learn.
Children and Learning

Types of learning

• Observational learning

• Learning by watching and imitating others

• Spatial learning

• Learning about the relations

Stimulus and response learning

Learning through music

Sound
Accretion: subconsciously process to learn: language, culture, habits certainly plays into this type of learning

Emergence: result of structuring a construction of new ideas and meaning that does not exist before, but they emerge from brain through thoughtful reflection, insight and creative expression of group interaction.

Social learning:
Transmission: information knowledge, ideas and skills are taught to others through purposeful, conscious telling, demonstration or guidance.
Acquisition: conscious choice to learn, method includes exploring, experimenting, self instructing, general curiosity etc.
Jean Piaget

levels of development:
1. Infancy
2. Pre school
3. Childhood
4. Adolescence

Each stage has cognitive structure that effects all the children's thinking, each stage represents the Childs understanding of reality during that period.
The intuitive 4-7 years children starts employing mental activities to solve problems and obtain goals shows transition between intuitiveness in solving problems and true logical reasoning.

Children primarily learn from imitation and play as they build up symbolic images through internalized Activity.
Role Playing

social interaction and collaboration

Engage imagination

interactive storytelling

Participants assume the role of fictional characters.

Act out role of characters, or parts, that may have personalities, motivations, and backgrounds different from their own.
Traditional children’s game are for eg: cops and robbers, playing house, vampire the masquerade

Theatre costume, players environment is used to represent the imaginary environment of the game world
Initial Explorations

Changing faces
Explorations using PU Foam - Body parts
Explorations using PU Foam - Face
Explorations using cloth
Explorations using cloth
Explorations using cloth
Explorations using plywood
Finger puppets using paper
Interaction with children at Kendriya Vidyalay
Asked them to draw

Perform a poem and tell stories.
Activity-based

The exercise required the students to use imagination, background knowledge, appropriate to character being role played and communication skills.
Class Activity

• Poem recitation
• Very energetic.
• Ideas about their surroundings are abstract.
• Lack in self expression.
• Construct substantial stories.
• Logical reasoning is still not well developed.
• Their stories have ambiguous endings.
• Can not shift paradigm
Stories told by kids AT K.V.

Story 1
Soldiers
There were five soldiers. One soldier kills the other three soldiers. And the remaining two soldiers also kills each other and the story ends.

Story 2
Family
Everyone stays together in a family and the baby goes off to sleep and the story is over.
Observations

• Want attention
• Don’t take much time to open up.
• Basic skill level - can’t operate complex things.
• Don’t want to follow instructions.
• They enact grand parents
Objectives after Interaction

The object allows them to:

• Change expression
• Basic modulation
• Indirect role playing
People around children

• Mother
• Father
• Child himself
• Hero
• Animal
• Shadow
• Sister
• Grandparents
• Teacher
• Friends
• Serials-saas bahu etc.
Input from primary books:

Class two: Hindi
- Comparison to understand height and size.
- Similar phonetics
- Opinion-influence
- Visual metaphor - tessellation, counting
- Memory
- Reasoning
- Sequence, similarities, how kids group things, develop observation powers, use of
- Synonyms, proverbs.
- Most of the activities relate to indirect role playing
- Stress on verbal expression
**Material exploration**

- Plastic mike
- Tap
- Match stick, box, brushes, blub, clip, clamps, paper napkins
- Toothpick
- Empty refills
- Springs
- Pencils, plastic ball, mosquito net, bamboo, dry grass, wires, corrugated paper, ice cream spoons, bangles.
Exploratory puppets
Shift to waste material
Theatre Box
- The explorations were mainly based on mechanisms and movement of the string puppets.
- Based on that an attempt was made to design my own puppets.
- Set of puppets (family) which can be used to construct any story by kids and do role playing.
- Using waste material as to inspire kids to construct their puppets.
- Provide them with theatre box.
The final deliverables are in the form of a set of puppets made using found and waste objects which are child safe and a theater box developed to facilitate role playing and storytelling.
Process of Making Puppets
Process of Making Puppets
Process of Making Puppets
Theatre box
Theatre box
Theatre box - Slit on the top
Backdrop - Kitchen
Backdrop - Classroom
Papa
Mummy
Daughter
Friend
Teacher
Heroine
Hero
Theater - Before the show begins
On stage - Kitchen set up
On stage - Kitchen set up
On stage - Kitchen set up
LEARNINGS:

Understanding the traditional puppetry

Understanding children and the world around them

Different possibilities with puppets

Learnt to be a performer
THANK YOU

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