



Forest Preschool at Home

Salamander Sock-Puppet

For all grades

Explore: Look through your unmatched sock pile and find one that will make a nice salamander puppet. Consider length, color, flexibility. The one you like is the best one!

Create: Gather up two small or medium sized buttons for eyes, (size proportionate to sock size so the buttons “fit” a salamander’s face. Find a needle and thread, a marker, and two chenille stems, 9” sticks or strips of stiff cloth for legs. Put the sock on one hand, decide where the eyes will go, and mark the eye spots with the marker. Take the sock off and sew the buttons onto the marked spots. Put the sock with eyes back on, shape your hand into a salamander head pose and draw a long thin mouth smile. Now flatten out the sock belly side up, and mark the center of where you would like the legs to go (1 stem or stick or strip makes the 2 front legs and the other makes the 2 back legs). Take off the puppet, and mark the middle of each leg, and stitch that center mark to each center mark on the sock-body. Now, flatten out the sock, and spread out the legs, and stitch each one at the outside edge of the body. Put on your salamander puppet and PLAY!

Reflect and Share: How does a salamander move? How does it catch food? Is it active in the day or the night?

Materials: 1 long sock, 2 smallish buttons, 2 chenille stems (or strips of stiff cloth, or 9” sticks), needle, thread, scissors, marker.

Why:

Development of empathy, motor planning, process from brain to action, ecoliteracy, connection, care, awe, and wonder.

Photos:

