

How to make... a walking tabletop puppet

By Green Ginger's Chris Pirie
Suitable for ages 4+ with adult assistance

You will need:

- Two long-ish socks, can be mismatched but roughly the same length
- Two cups (500g) of dried food (rice, lentils, beans etc) in two sealed bags
- Two elastic bands (useful but not essential)

Instructions

Step 1:

Fill each sock with 250g of dried food. You can put elastic bands above the lumps if you wish, though it's not essential.

Step 2:

Tie the socks together with a simple knot at their open ends; you could also experiment with elastic bands.

Step 3:

Holding the knot as its head, pull it upwards while holding one of the two 'feet' on the table. This gives tension through the body. Try and maintain this stretch as you do the next steps.

Step 4:

Playfully practice taking small steps with one foot and then moving the head in the same direction. With tiny adjustments, the other foot can take steps of its own, using the momentum or energy created by the movement of the head and first leg.

