

Cone Puppet

(Target audience: Preschool)

This very easy activity with a cone puppet will have everyone participating and laughing. The element of surprise will grab the attention of all the children, including the ones who run around.

Materials:

- A cone puppet

Rhyme:

Jack in the box
Sits so still
Will he come up?
Yes, he will

If you are working with ESL families or patrons who do not know or remember the words, start by saying the rhyme slowly, line by line, and having everyone repeat.

Hold up the cone with the puppet hidden inside, and tell the group that the puppet is asleep and won't wake up until it hears the chant. Have everyone say the rhyme, then raise the head of the puppet until only the eyes appear, look slowly around at everyone and then go back in. Create suspense.

Make up a story about how everybody needs to chant and join in. Repeat the actions of the puppet—slowly. Tell everyone the chanting may not be loud enough; then, repeat the chanting and the movement of the puppet. At this point the group should almost be shouting, especially the little boys. Then, change the mood and ask everyone to whisper the chant. Repeat the actions of the puppet. Have everyone repeat the whispering even more softly then pause silently, to create a moment of suspense. Abruptly pop up the puppet and yell—POW! Hi!