

BLINK AT HOME

Inventor Puppets

What do inventors do?

Skills to Develop

- + Verbal communication
- + Creative thinking
- + Fine motor skills

Materials

- + Cardboard
- + Scissors
- + Paper
- + Crayons or markers
- + Hole punch
- + Milkshake straws
- + Straws

WHAT TO DO

During the Learning Activity

1. Discuss that inventors are people who create new things to solve problems. Inventors create in many different ways- some inventors build new machines or buildings, some create new recipes, while some make music or art. Ask: *are you an inventor? What kinds of things do you like to make?*
2. Explain that today we are going to make inventor puppets. Ask: *what kind of inventor do you want to make?* Invite them to decorate the puppet body with crayons or markers.
3. Explain that we need to add arms to our inventor. Ask them to look at their arms: *where do your arms attach to your body? Where do they bend?*
4. Invite child to add arms to their puppet. Cut two pieces of milkshake straw to be the upper and lower arm. Punch a hole at each end of the upper and lower arms. Slide a small piece of regular-sized straw through the holes you punched to create a linkage elbow holding the two pieces of straw together. Punch a hole in the cardboard shoulder of the body and attach the arm by sliding another length of straw through the holes. Repeat for the other arm.
5. Explain that we need to repeat this process to create legs. Ask them to look at their legs: *where do your legs attach to your body? Where do they bend? Are your legs longer or shorter than your arms?*
6. Invite your child to add legs to their puppet.

Extend the Fun

- + Brainstorm tools your inventor puppet might need for their projects. Create them out of paper and attach them.
- + Create puppet versions of famous inventors.