

BASIC FEMALE HAND PUPPET

You can make this puppet into either girl, Mum or Gran simply by adding your own creative ideas – grey hair etc. – lots of ideas are on the Gallery page of the website. Ideally we'd like a family set (happy/sad sided) – Girl, Mum and Grandma from this pattern and Boy, Dad and Grandad from the Basic Boy Pattern. The family is used in role play to help traumatized children.



You will need:

Double knitting yarn in the colours of your choice – if making ethnic puppets, use brown/tan for the face, but not black thanks.

4 mm (size 8) needles

For the eyes - buttons or the sew-on type of toy eyes, or you can embroider the eyes –(please don't stick on anything with glue)

For the mouth - embroidery cotton or yarn

Double knitting yarn for the hair in the colour of your choice (grey for the Gran??!)

Cast on 20 stitches and knit 6 rows in garter stitch. Work in stocking stitch or moss stitch until work measures 3 inches from commencement, ending with an even row. Change colour if desired and work 6 rows in rib (K1, P1).

1st arm row: Cast on 10 stitches, K10, continue in rib (30 stitches) 2nd arm row: Cast on 10 stitches, K4, P6, continue in rib until last 10 stitches, P6, K4 (40 stitches) Work another 8 rows: the bodice continues in rib, the arms are worked in stocking stitch – on purl rows, Knit the first and last 4 stitches to suggest hands.

Next row: Cast off 11 stitches, continue in rib until last 10 stitches, K10 (29 stitches) Next row: Cast off 11 stitches in purl, continue in rib (18 stitches)

Change to face colour- use white British flesh tones or brown or tan for ethnic skin tones, and work 10 rows in stocking stitch Shape face: 1st row: S1, K1, pssso, K14 K2 tog 2nd row: Purl 3rd row: S1, K1, pssso, K12 K2 tog 4th row: Purl Continue decreasing until 10 stitches remain. Cast off in purl.

Knit two pieces the same and sew together, leaving the bottom open.

Weave matching yarn through the top row of bodice stitches and draw up slightly to define the neck. Tie ends securely and sew in.

Embroider eyes, - if using buttons or sew-on type eyes please sew them on extra firmly. Embroider nose and smiling mouth one side and downturned mouth on the other side.

Important note: we have been asked repeatedly by workers if we can put a smile on one side of the puppet and a downturned mouth (upside down smile) on the other side. As far as we know you can't buy these, so it makes them unique. It's very useful in discussions about how events affect other members of the family.

