

# 5 ways to use puppets to help your child read

Using puppets, like Vlad Flea, helps children develop their language and reading skills in many ways. Here are five ways they can be used to help.



1

## Fun

Using a puppet to tell the story and move about, can make the story more interactive and engaging. If reading becomes a chore, or something to tick in a record or book, your child is less likely to want to read. Reading is the biggest step to helping your child succeed in learning and so finding enjoyment in reading is a huge part of reading for pleasure.

2

## Bringing characters to life

What does your character sound like?  
How do they move?  
What words do they use?

All these questions help bring the character of the puppet alive, and in turn makes the story more engaging.

3

## Showing understanding

Asking your child to retell a story shows if they have understood it. It shows if they followed the events, understood the language and the sequence of events. It can be quite hard to retell, and using a puppet to re-enact it is often easier. Children can move it about helping them process the actions in the book and will often repeat the language.

4

## Digging deeper

If the character has jumped from the page in puppet-form, you and your child can ask them questions and find out more about them and the story. If the puppet (or you) don't know the answer it is an opportunity to find out together.

5

## Creating more adventures

Now the character has escaped from their story they can go and make a brand new one with your child. Vlad Flea might want to find out about other bits of history and make new books with your child. These new tales could be verbal, written, or both.

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