

Greetings from Pennsylvania! My name is Molly and I teach the nursery at River Valley Waldorf School in Eastern PA right along the beautiful Delaware River. We, like so many of you, are out of school and staying home. Susan Perrow shared with all of us the wonderful healing story of “The Little Gnome Who Had to Stay Home”. Its simplicity and message of safety was so calming that I wanted to share it with the parents of all the students in my class. When I thought about it, I could see in my mind’s eye, a picture of the children acting it out in the classroom with the little gnome peg dolls we have. It made me long to turn it into a puppet show. But, I did not want to do a video. I’m trying to help parents keep experiences as real as possible in spite of all the technological tools we have available. So, my assistant (the amazing and talented Shannon O’Connell) and I decided to create these cut out paper puppets. We had such fun drawing them and imagining the children playing with them. We can only hope that this brings as much joy to them, and to all of you, as they have given to us in the creation. Best wishes, and joyous play to all of you!

With love,
Molly MacDonald

How to Make the Puppets

- ❖ Print the puppet pages. Use card stock if you have it. If you don’t, fear not! You can simply use some cardboard to attach the puppets to for stability. Cardboard from snack or cereal boxes would be perfect-lightweight and easy to cut!
- ❖ Collect your materials:

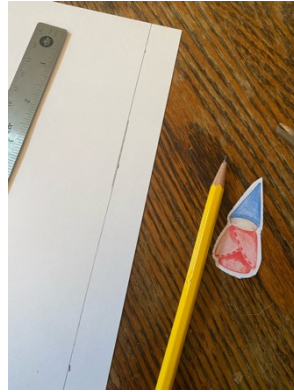
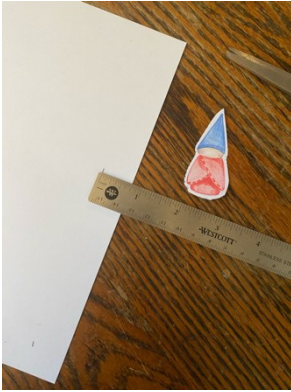


- ✓ Printouts of puppets
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Tape or glue (tape will be easier)
- ✓ Ruler (not necessary but can be helpful)
- ✓ Cardboard or stiff paper if needed

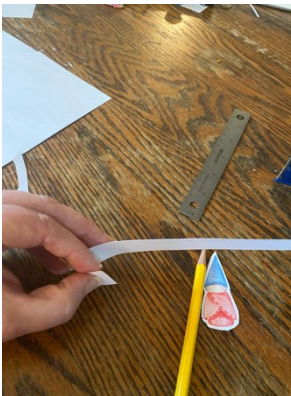
- ❖ ❖ Cut out the puppets.
- ❖ If you are using cardboard, attach the puppets to the cardboard (glue will be best here if you have it) and cut out.

To make finger puppets:

- ❖ Cut a strip of paper about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide and at least 4 inches long.



- ❖ Roll the strip into a loop that will fit around your (or your child's) finger and tape it into a circle.

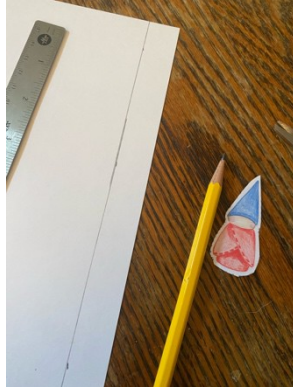
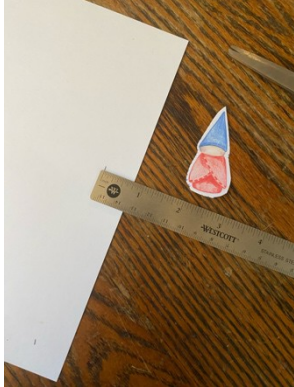


- ❖ Tape the loop onto the back of the puppet and VOILA! Done!



To make table puppets:

- ❖ Cut a strip of paper or lightweight cardboard about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide and at least 6 inches long.



- ❖ Tape one end of the strip to the back of the puppet.



- ❖ Fold the strip so that the bottom edge of the puppet feets on the table.



- ❖ Trim the strip to a reasonable length and Voila! Done!



**there are certainly other ways to turn these into different kinds of puppets. You could attach popsicle sticks, skewers or small sticks to the backs to make a puppet you can just hold. Or perhaps some of you have even other ideas! These were just the two initial ways I envisioned.

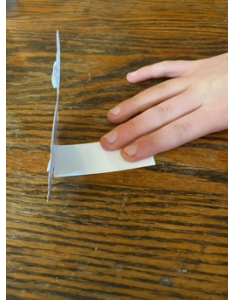
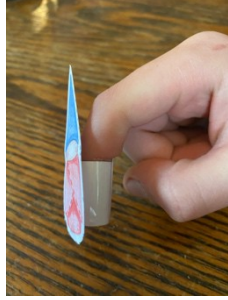
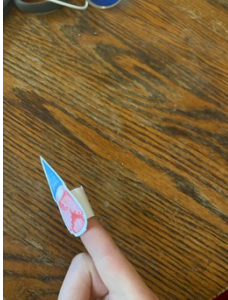
Notes about creating a puppet show:

You can use the tree and window as a “literal” rendition or, here’s a little example of how you can get creative if, like me, your printer stopped functioning just as you were printing things, or if you just want to create a more open ended scenery. This was created out of a shawl and a tiny plant. Remember-no need to get fancy!

When you tell or read the story, read it slowly and let the puppets drive the wagon so to speak. You let them do something and then read the words to explain what they’re doing. It’s like you are a commentator telling the audience what is happening. Regardless of your movements,, your voice, which is so precious to your child, will be the conduit to the fairy land where stories live. Read quietly with gentle expression and let yourself breathe. Breathe the words, breathe the story, breathe the healing of Susan’s wonderful gift. And most importantly? Have fun!!



Here are some ideas for different ways to operate the puppets:



Now you have some lovely puppets to act out the story of “Little Gnome Stay Home”. I wonder what other stories these characters could inspire?

Enjoy!

