

Using puppets in the classroom

Whilst researching engagement in the classroom, we came across the notion of teaching with puppets.

Coincidentally, about that same time, we happened upon a former teacher displaying Australian animal puppets at a market on the Bellarine Peninsula. Heather Lawrence from *Secret Gully* generously gave of her time in explaining the value of teaching children about animals through puppetry. Research shows that if children can empathise with something first, they will relate more readily to it.

Secret Gully has a series of tutorials on their website to show users how to best manoeuvre their hand puppets:
<http://www.secretgully.com.au/>



The following are links to articles regarding the benefits of teaching with puppets:

Using puppets in the classroom to get children talking about their ideas

The PUPPETS Project is a research project, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, which aims to promote engagement and talk in science lessons.

www.puppetsproject.com/documents/puppets-t-earth-sci06.doc

Puppets, play therapy can improve social skills, speech for children with autism

<http://www.examiner.com/article/puppets-play-therapy-can-improve-social-skills-speech-for-children-with-autism>

How puppets are effective teaching aids for kids

<http://teachmag.com/archives/5618>

Talk to the Hand: An Innovative Use of an Age-Old Toy

<http://www.edutopia.org/talk-hand>

