

Short Tips

2 page script + 1 music stand = 0 page turns

(if including the list of puppets and/or props adds a third page, put all the additional information on page 3 and keep your script to 2 pages.)

Dark knee sock: cut off foot, put on arm with 'top' of sock at wrist.
good for covering up bright colored shirts

Keep Notes and Records!

If not original script WHAT is the source? Write it down.

If you make up words for a song, what tune do you sing? Make a note on the script!

Be careful with **Names**.

Names can add to the skit but also may be tricky.

Example: Shelia or Shannon, one is a sheep, one a dragon. I never remember which!

While performing, we find it's easier to recall, Baby Bear or Mama or "Here comes Fox" rather than Here comes Fred. (Though naming with same first letter sometimes helps. Fred the Fox, Bearnice – the bear!)

Size disparity

If the comparative puppet sizes are not compatible – we don't worry about it – and neither do our audiences!

Attention getters: for us, two approaches work well.

Short story line with beginning, middle and end.

Or activity! Puppets or props coming and going on and off stage

Find a **compassionate observer** to listen and look! Are you holding the puppet so it's visible to your audience?

Themes: We don't worry about themes. We do work seasonally, i.e. snow in winter, pumpkins in fall, but that's generally it. (Thankfully!)

Know when it's over: A few of our plays just trail off and young kids sit expectantly, wanting more.
Write an ending or say THE END Bow – and leave the stage.

Think **Quality AND Quantity!** We do puppet skits in virtually EVERY story time. The children gleefully anticipate puppet-time.

Dive in. Puppets engage children. Engages us.

May seem overwhelming but it's not. Worth the effort!

Keep it **lively** – this is **LIVE PERFORMANCE!**

Breathe deeply, enjoy the experience, and go with the flow.

Unexpected things **WILL** happen – and the children, IF they even realize that it didn't go 'as planned' will love it anyway.