

## DO THIS AT HOME

### Puppet Talk

Try this activity at home to reinforce what your child learned about conflict-resolution and the problem-solving process.

#### What Your Child Will Learn

Acting out scenes that are either make-believe or loosely based on your child's own life helps him work through the beginnings of conflict-resolution, or simply stated, he starts to understand the problem-solving process. Children use behaviors for a reason. As you observe your child closely in dramatic play, you may begin to see these roots of behavior played out in the stories your child tells. Pay close attention to begin to help your child on the way to becoming a life-long problem-solver!

#### Materials Needed

craft sticks	old socks
crayons	paper plates
markers	tape
old magazines	

#### What to Do

- ▶ Using the materials you have available, make a few puppets with your child. If you are using paper plates, use crayons and markers to make various facial features. You can also look through magazines for decorative elements to add. After your child has drawn the faces, tape the paper plates to craft sticks. Make many different puppets with your child over time until you have a nice collection so the puppets can interact.
- ▶ If puppet play is new to your child, you might first use puppets to make up a story of your own. During your story, be sure to talk about your feelings, behaviors, and actions. The goal of this activity is to help your child to describe his own behaviors and actions.
- ▶ As your child gains confidence in his puppet play, you can make the stories more meaningful by talking about problem-solving between the characters. "How do you think these two puppets can solve this problem?" Getting your child started in brainstorming solutions will help when real behavioral concerns arise that must be addressed and worked through.
- ▶ Help your child use his homemade puppets to put on a show based on the stories he tells you.

\*You can download this activity and the other at-home activities in this book at [www.centerforresilientchildren.org/SSES](http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/SSES).