



Trash Puppets is coming to your school and we need your help!

Next week on _____ students of _____ are participating in a Trash Puppets workshop.

At Trash Puppets our aim is to educate adults and children alike on the concepts of sustainability with particular focus on waste reduction. We do this through creative puppet making workshops where imaginations are expanded and where play is key.

The materials used to make Trash Puppets are 100% recycled and reused. For your child to get the most out of this experience, we encourage parents and children to start their own 'Trash Puppets bag' of clean recyclables at home for use in the workshop. Please drop your bag of 'trash'* at school, in an area specified by your teacher, ahead of the workshop.

*** We ask that each child only bring one small bag of trash each, about the size of a green canvas bag from Woolworths.**

Here's the kinds of (clean) materials we can accept:

- ✓ Cardboard e.g. small boxes (smaller than a shoe box), egg cartons, paper towel rolls.
- ✓ Plastic bottles e.g. coke bottles, shampoo bottles (washed, with LIDS OFF).
- ✓ Plastic bottle caps.
- ✓ Plastic tubs e.g. peanut butter, strawberry container, ice cream tub (washed please).
- ✓ Plastic bags e.g. supermarket bags, bubble wrap, bread bags.
- ✓ Paper bags e.g. retail bags, grocery bags.
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Picnicware e.g. paper plates, plastic spoons, plastic cups.
- ✓ Bits and bobs e.g. buttons, yarn, old wrapping paper.

And, the types of materials we **DON'T** want.

- ✗ Toilet rolls.
- ✗ Milk Bottles.
- ✗ Tins or any sharp metal including metal bottle tops/caps.
- ✗ Glass, including all glass jars and bottles
- ✗ Anything with alcohol or drug branding, eg. panadol boxes, beer cartons etc.
- ✗ Cartons that we can't see into eg. tetra pack juice boxes, milk cartons, stock cartons etc.
- ✗ Polystyrene in any form e.g. cups, packaging, beads etc.
- ✗ Fabric scraps
- ✗ Magazines
- ✗ Medium-large boxes (an adult size shoe box is too big)
- ✗ Brand new/ unused items specially purchased for this workshop.
- ✗ Craft supplies, such as pom poms, pipe cleaners etc

Important notes:

1. Please **don't** go out and buy anything! The message of our workshops are about reducing waste!
2. Only collect what you have at home in your recycling bin or in your "TRASH".
3. Make sure **EVERYTHING** you donate is **CLEANED** and **DRY** (please and thank you!)
4. We are dedicated to quality control. Your donations are sorted by our team before the workshop to make sure everything is clean and safe.

If you have any questions about the materials we accept, please just ask!

Twitter/ Facebook/ Instagram: @TrashPuppetsAus

Email: info@trashpuppets.com

Parent's FAQs

Why do I supply the recyclables for this workshop?

Home-sourced recyclables form a core part of our 'recycle and reduce' experience. By collecting materials for the workshop together, your child gains a more holistic understanding of their own impact on the Earth (through what's being thrown away at home) and of their personal part to play in sustainability (through recycling, reducing, and reusing). We suggest starting a collection bag separate to your normal recycling bin. By building your bag of interesting materials together over the week you can share conversations about waste reduction in your own home whilst getting the creative juices started.

What happens to the materials I supply?

The items you collect will be sorted by our facilitators ahead of the workshop to ensure everything is clean, safe and appropriate for use. Everything supplied goes into a communal pile for the whole group to access. This becomes the place to source ones puppet throughout the workshop. Through the 'trash pile' kids get a great tactile experience, plus the joy of 'using what you have' and rummaging for inspiration. The trash pile creates a little joyful chaos and it's often a highlight of our workshops because we encourage the children to make a mess!

What if my child has allergies?

If your child has severe allergies we would advise discussing this incursion with your classroom teachers. We often suggest that parents supply their own 'allergy-free' collection of materials which would be held separate for your child. Unfortunately, given the nature of working with repurposed materials, we cannot guarantee that the general collection will be allergy safe. If you are particularly concerned, we would encourage you to attend and participate in the workshop alongside your child.

What kind of puppet can I expect to see from my child after the workshop?

Part of our mission at Trash Puppets is to offer positive creative experiences for people of all ages. Our workshops teach participants the basics of puppetry and offer guidance on construction, mechanisms, and performance. With this foundation we support participants to bring their own vision to life in whatever form they have imagined. We aim to have every person leaving with a working puppet. However, since it is an open creative task (and we have very limited time) we can't promise your child's puppet will arrive home looking the way an adult thinks a puppet should look. We strive to find something good in everything that each participant creates and we encourage parents to do the same.

What else is my child gaining from this activity?

Our workshops:

- encourage creative, reflective, and critical thinking,
- get students solving complex supply and design problems,
- offer opportunities to plan, experiment, take risks, and question,
- impart meaningful puppetry knowledge, puppet-making technique,
- give tangible experience of core sustainability principles,
- build confidence in personal creative expression.

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch: info@trashpuppets.com