

# Middle Schoolers Bring Stories to Life with Puppetry



The Early Education and Human Development elective class recently explored the magic of puppetry and its benefits for young children. Middle school students learned how puppets can help build language skills, spark imagination, and engage young learners in storytelling. To put this knowledge into action, they created and performed puppet shows for the TK and Kindergarten classes, bringing classic tales to life in a fun and interactive way.

TK students were delighted by a lively performance of *The Gingerbread Man*, giggling as the puppet characters chased the runaway cookie. Meanwhile, the Kindergarteners enjoyed *The Three Little Dinosaurs*, a creative twist on the familiar *Three Little Bears* story. "That was so funny! I liked the part when the mean dinosaur roared," one kindergartener exclaimed. The middle schoolers took great pride in their performances, with one student reflecting, "I was nervous at first, but I liked seeing the little kids laughing and getting excited about the story we told."





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After the shows, the middle school and elementary students spent time playing together outside, strengthening connections between age groups. Whether they were climbing on the structure, playing tag, or simply chatting, the experience was a reminder of how meaningful interactions between older and younger students can be. Through their puppetry project, middle schoolers not only developed teaching and storytelling skills but also experienced firsthand the joy of working with younger children.

