A Show of Hands
When it comes to entertaining kids, these stagehands are right for the job.

To create one, have your child hold his hand in a loose fist with the end of his thumb tucked into the center, as shown at right. Next, he should practice wiggling the lower portion of his thumb to simulate a talking mouth. Now create the puppet: using different shades of lipstick or face paints, draw on lips and eyes. Add eyelashes and other details with an eyeliner pencil. Finally, tape on a bunched yarn wig or a felt cone hat.

Make cars, rocket ships, carriages…only after you’ve got a few puppets ready. That way, you can make your vehicles with the finished puppets it mind — you want to be sure the windows are big enough for the puppets' heads to fit through, so it looks like they're really going for a ride.