Simple Moving Mouth Puppet

1- Trace the pattern on to the fabric of your choice. Fleece or fur with a bit of stretch is the best. Draw a short line in the corners of where the mouth will be. This will be sewn when you placed the mouth plate in place.

2- Trace the mouth on to a piece of felt. Red or black or whatever you would like to be the inside of the puppet’s mouth. Cut the mouth out and be sure to mark the top and the bottom of the pieces.

3- Pin the fabric in place. Some fabric will slide around as you sew if you do not pin the pieces together.

4- Sew along the lines drawn on the fabric. Stop at the line you drew in the corners of the mouth.

5- Turn the fabric over to the side you did not trace on. Place the mouth pattern on the body lining it up with the end of the stitching and trace around the bottom part of the mouth pattern. The body pattern has the top part of the mouth so you need to trace the bottom part after the sewing is finished.

6- Cut off the extra fabric – leave about ¼ inch of the fabric. You will need to cut around the top and the bottom of the mouth separately.
7- Open up the two flaps of the mouth and place the felt mouth into place. Pin the corners of the mouth first. Then the middle of the top and the middle of the bottom. Pin the entire mouth into place, you may need to ease the body fabric around so it fits in place nicely.

8- Sew the mouth into place. Start the sewing in one corner and slowly go around to the other corner. Lift the presser foot and flip the mouth under so you can sew the opposite side of the mouth. This is the trickiest part of the sewing. Go slowly and carefully.
9- Trace the mouth plate pattern on to a plastic lid and cut out the parts.

10- Using hot glue, attach the plastic pieces to the top and bottom of the mouth.

11- Trace around the pattern for the felt cover on to adhesive backed felt. Label the top and bottom so you know how it should be placed.

12- Peel the back off and place it over the plastic pieces. This gives the inside of the mouth a nice covering.

13- Turn the puppet inside out. Start with the arms. Using a chopstick makes the process easier.
14- After both arms have been turned inside out, turn the rest of the puppet. Now you are ready to add some stuffing.

15- Use poly fill stuffing to stuff the arms and hands. Leave a small gap where the elbow of the puppet would be so the arm can bend if you choose to add rods for arm control. Add stuffing for the top of the arm too.

16- To stuff the head you can use either an inexpensive sponge with the corners cut to allow for it to follow along the mouth line.

17- Another way to stuff the head is to use a foam ball that had been cut in half and trimmed like in the pictures.

18- Use a butter knife or an electric knife to cut the foam ball in half.
19- Trim just a bit off one end and then using your finger, hollow out a bit of space to allow for finger room.

20- Slip the foam into the head and fuss with it until it fills out the top of the head nicely.

21- Now you are ready to add facial features and hair and perhaps clothing. Use your imagination. A tongue can be made by cutting a heart shaped piece of foam or felt to be glued into the mouth.