

Hoopoe Books Teaching-Stories™

FELT BOARD FOR CLASSROOM

A felt board can be an educational tool to use for enhancing reading and other activities. Using felt for both the face of the board and the shapes that adhere to it, students can retell and create stories read in the classroom and at home. Felt-board characters are easy to make by drawing shapes or using stencils or cookie cutters to trace out shapes, and students can even create pieces for playing simple games or counting. Requiring only a few materials, the felt board is simple to make and can be hung on a classroom wall or carried easily from group to group.

MATERIALS

Large wooden picture frame (if none avail, see optional method below)

Adhesive felt slightly larger than the frame or cardboard (light colors are best)

(If adhesive felt is not available, apply glue around the edges of your felt to secure it to the mat board.

Do not glue in the center as the glue may run through the felt.)

Lightweight cardboard or mat board cut to the size for inserting into the frame

Kraft paper

Packing tape



A felt board with decorative matting.

1. Remove the glass from the frame and discard carefully.
2. Cut a piece of felt that is about 1 1/4 inches larger than the cardboard piece on all sides. Cut out the corners so the felt can be folded over the cardboard without becoming bulky.
3. Press the adhesive felt to the cardboard and smooth out any bubbles. Secure the felt by taping around the edges on the back of the cardboard. Place the felt-covered cardboard it into the frame, felt side out.
4. Add a second piece of cardboard, if desired, over the back of the board, and secure it with a sheet of kraft paper and several lengths of packing tape.
5. Add picture hangers on the top of the wooden frame for wall mounting. Or you can secure the frame onto an easel lowered to the height of your children.

OPTIONAL METHOD

1. If a picture frame is not available, cut out a square piece of heavy corrugated cardboard (such as an appliance box). Make sure the cardboard is sturdy. You may want to cut 2 pieces and tape them together back-to-back for double thickness.
2. Cut a piece of felt that is about 1 1/4 inches larger than the frame on all sides. Cut out the corners so the felt can be folded over the cardboard without becoming bulky.
3. Tape felt around the back of the cardboard.
4. Cover the back of the cardboard with a sheet of kraft paper using packing tape.
5. To hang the cardboard felt board to the wall, use pieces of Velcro for best results.
6. For fun themes, you may want to cut out different color and shapes from art paper as special mats around the felt board.