Puppet shows, the new party theme

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Forget balloons and park parties for your little ones. Show them something they will never forget. Plan a puppet show for your kid's next party.

It could be the story of Hanuman lifting the *nanga parbat* to save Lakshman's life or the tale of Cinderella and her lucky glass slippers. Nothing is impossible for Padmini. She has given a new meaning to birthday parties with her unique puppets.

Her puppets are simple, expressive and fun to watch. She makes her puppets at home, according to the orders and the themes she is given.

"Though I knew how to make soft toys, I never gave the idea of making puppets a shot until I came to Hyderabad. "My dad suggested that I check out some books and internet sites that contained information about puppets. I was shocked to learn that it was a very old art form that originated in our country. I was most amused and decided to take up the art on my own. I started with demonstrating the toys while teaching my kid. Then I showed it to my son's friends and my neighbours and friends. I also did an entire shadow show with puppets and the guests who were present for the show loved it so much that they took down my address and number. That's how I started off and I am still going strong," says Padmini.

Sahoorthi Theatre for Educational Puppetry, Arts and Crafts (STEPARC)