

Four Little Paper Dolls

My best friend and I were enjoying a sunny afternoon on our porch swing, and we found ourselves reminiscing about making paper dolls as children. We spent hours cutting and decorating them. So I thought it would be fun to bring back this creative and FREE activity with a song! If you've never made paper dolls, there are directions and a pattern below. Children of all ages can participate at their own ability level, whether drawing, cutting, or coloring. The song is sung slowly to allow children time to open and close the folds (making the dolls come or go) as the lyrics indicate. Alternately, teachers may demonstrate how to make paper dolls, and then sing the song using their set. It's great fun, and a simple, creative activity worthy of re-introducing in these "back to basics" times! So have fun!

You might also try making paper doll animals, like dinosaurs, dogs, cats, etc.

Four Little Paper Dolls

Begin song with paper dolls open, showing four. As each verse is sung, fold doll on the end back against doll next to it, so only remaining dolls are visible. This is not the fan fold you use to make the dolls, but a regular fold. When you get to the last verse, only one doll will be visible.

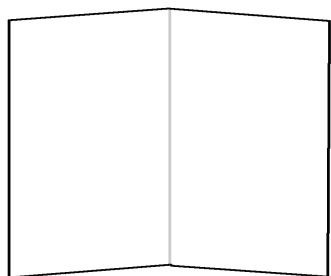
For last verse open them all up. There is instrumental time in the recorded song which should allow you (or children) time to open or close the dolls.

1. Four little paper dolls in a row
One said, "Sorry, but I have to go"
2. Three little paper dolls in a row
One said, "Sorry, but I have to go"
3. Two little paper dolls in a row
One said, "Sorry, but I have to go"
4. One paper doll said, "Where are my friends?"
They all came back..... And this is the end

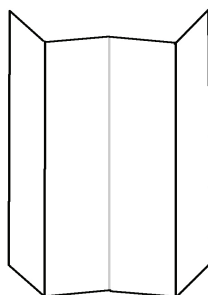
Directions for Making Paper Dolls

Traditional paper dolls are made by folding a piece of paper like a fan, cutting a shape (not cutting through the folds), and opening it to reveal identical shapes joined at the fold. This calls for freehand folding and cutting. It's easy to do, but if you want more exact directions, you can use the patterns below. And using the patterns will make it easier for young children.

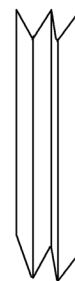
You will get two sets of paper dolls from each 8 1/2 x 11" sheet of paper.



① Fold your paper exactly in half.



② Fold each side back in half again



③ Now your piece of paper is folded accordion style.

④ Trace a copy of each doll from the pattern below, and then cut them out.

Be sure not to cut the ends of the hands (where the fold is).

⑤ Now unfold the paper, and you should have a line of "dolls" holding hands like this:

