

Exploring Digital Animation

By [Jean Edwards](#).

In this introduction to digital animation, Jean Edwards shows us how children can use some of the tools available in the FlipaClip app to make a simple creature move across the screen.

Children often see the technique of animation used to bring stories to life. This can include stop motion animation, where real materials are moved in space and captured frame by frame by a tablet or camera. Within digital animation the action takes place on screen through a series of sequenced still digital images. In this activity digital animation on screen is used to bring simple drawings to life and make them move.

Resources needed:

Sketchbooks

Felt pens

Tablets and optional stylus (it is fine to use your finger to draw with)

App: FlipaClip.

A note on the FlipaClip app:

The FlipaClip app is a digital version of a flick book so it can be a useful introduction to have a play with flick books or make your own. The app is a simple to use digital animation tool and we are going to use the free version which will give us access to more than enough options and some room to go further in the future. As with any art resource it is useful for all adults working with children to have a go themselves. Watch the 'Getting started with FlipaClip' video available [here](#) and follow the introductory activity demonstrated in it as well as just having a play.

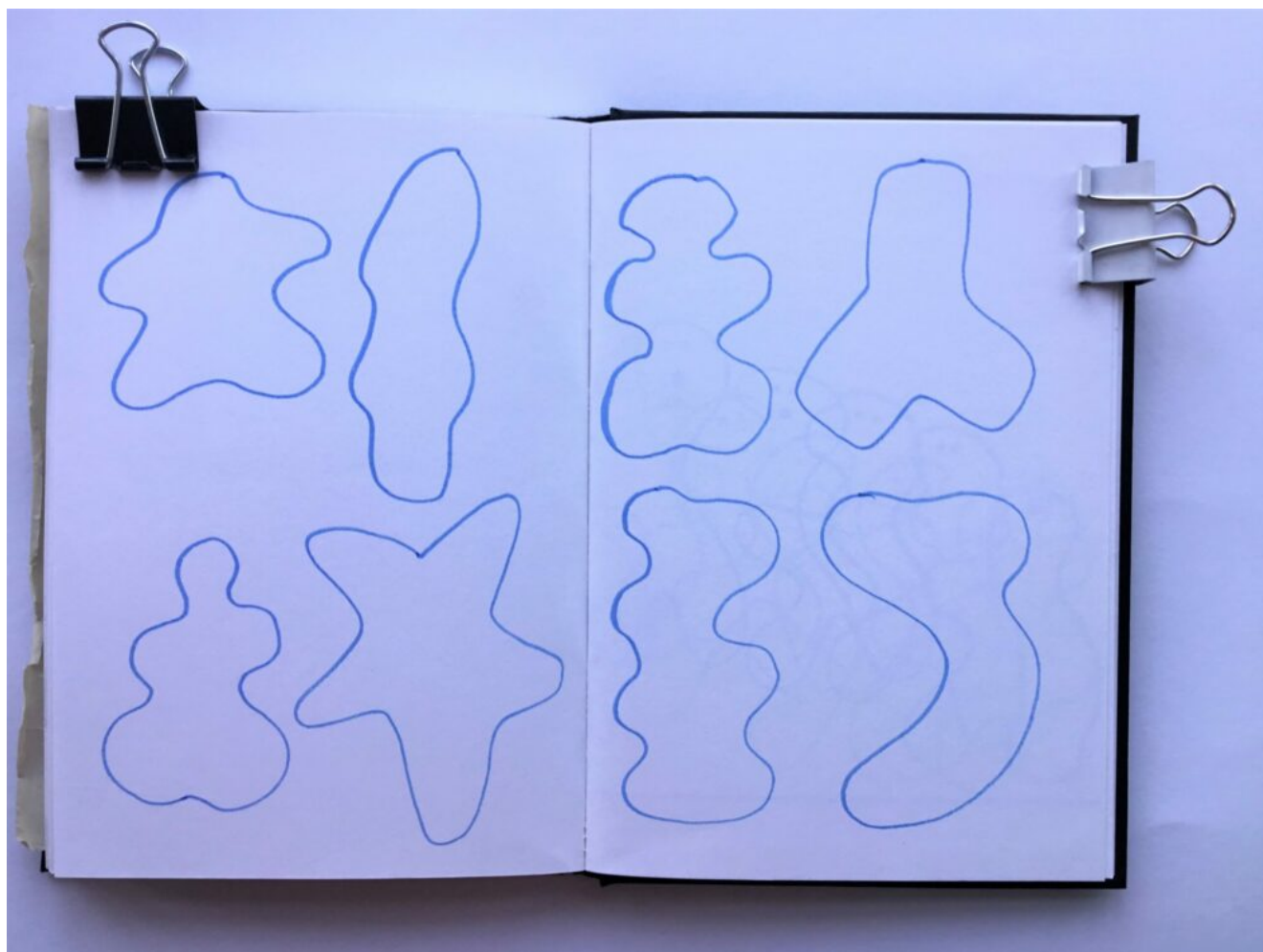
There are some screen by screen instructions [here](#):

Getting started with FlipaClip from Jean Edwards on Vimeo.

Introducing the idea and Preparing to animate:

We're going to make a simple creature based on a blob shape move so it's useful to have a go at sketching some simple blobby shapes in outline to develop ideas and establish a shape. Children could also make some decisions about the background colour and the colour of their creature before they use the app. This could be done in their sketchbooks using felt pens.

Here's an example from my sketchbook:



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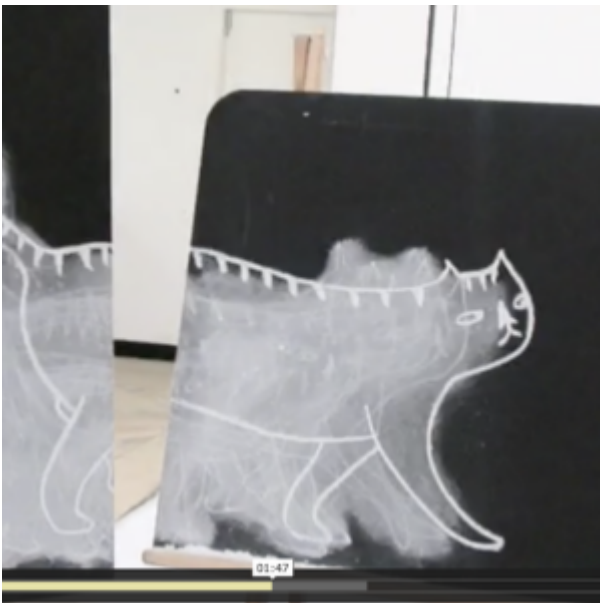
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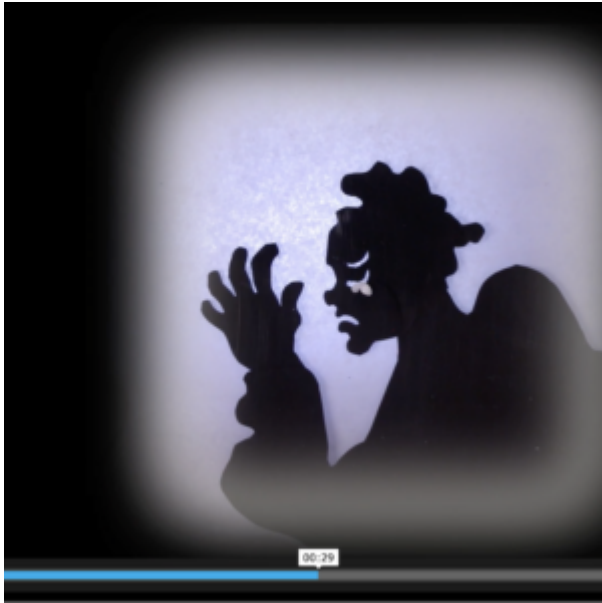


[This is featured in the 'Making Animated Drawings' pathway](#)

Talking points: Making drawings move



Talking Points: paper cut puppets



Talking Points: Lauren child



Talking Points: Lotte reiniger



Which Artists: Nathan Ward

Which Artists: Toby Pritchard

What We Like About This Resource...

“It’s a really positive thing for an artist to share the concept of the creative journey. At AccessArt we believe journeys are pretty important and we are pleased to show this in action through Toby Pritchard’s post. We particularly like the

anthropomorphic element, and how this really brings life to Toby's work." – *Rachel, AccessArt*

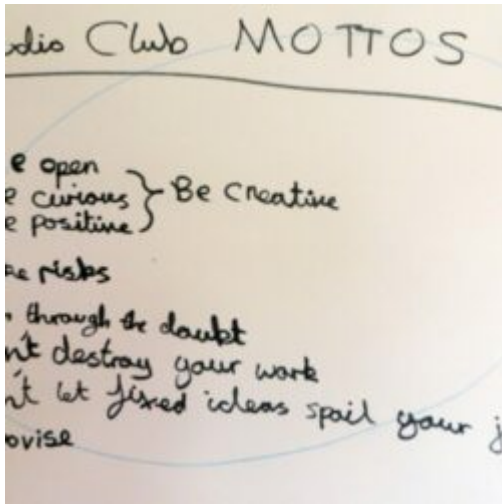
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Teaching for the Journey not the Outcome

Gabby Savage-Dickson: Felting & Embroidering Sets

What We Like About This Resource...

"It's really interesting to see how Gabby works across the different disciplines of textiles and illustration in her work, and you can see how the principles of each are present in these beautifully made felt sets. We enjoyed learning how she went between planning and making – showing that the process of creating isn't completely linear, and that the journey of idea creation can

happen through sketching ideas, but also through making itself” – *Andrea, AccessArt*

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[This is featured in the 'Set Design' pathway](#)

talking points: negative space by tiny inventions



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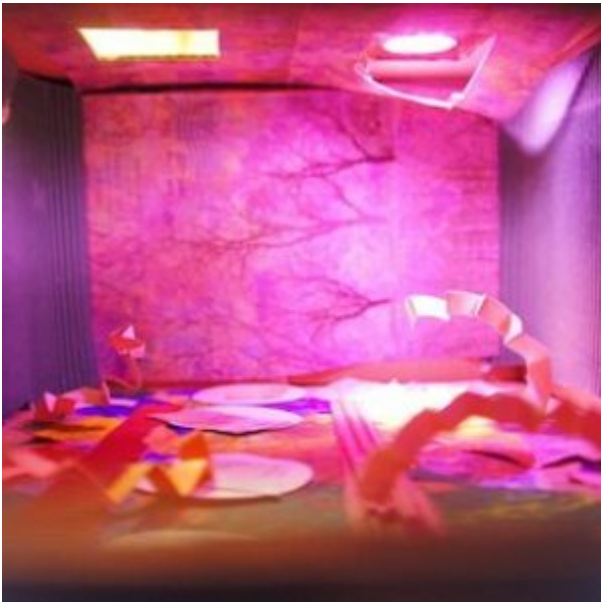
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**Draw your Granny and Grandpa
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The Nonna Maria Drawing Challenge by Luca Damiani

The Making of: “Being Creative Builds Your Sense of Self”: A Simple Building Block Animation

Be inspired to make a simple stop motion animation using building bricks!

Simple Animation: Making a Flick Book

Flick books are a great way to make simple animations.

Animation Software

Simple advice to help you chose and use accessible animation software and hardware. No experience needed!

The Making of: “Everyone Else is Better Than Me!”

Simple animation technique using a vegetable, but a great example of how a clear message and thoughtful animation can communicate emotion.

Animating Hands!

Using image frames from video to create quirky animations of hands moving!

#BeACreativeProducer – Animating a Demonstration!

Using cut-out images against a green screen to make a simple stop motion animation.

The Making of: “Being

Creative Helps You Tackle Challenges in All Areas of Life”

Meet Bob! A cloth character with a bendy wire armature to animate in front of a green screen.

The Making of: Hand Coloured Photoshop Animation Frames

This post shares how one of the #BeACreativeProducer team members, Alex, developed his digital skills by working across iMovie and Photoshop to extract single frames from a movie, hand colour them in Photoshop, and then import them back into iMovie to complete the animated scene.

We used the technique as a visual to an aural backdrop of the teenagers working collaboratively on their musical composition.

The Making of: “Creativity is a Process” and Comebacks to

the Ogres”

This resource shares how teenagers practised interviewing skills before filming to get footage for animations.

The Making Of: The “Fill Your Funnel” Scene

Animating text and images using magnets and whiteboard, combined with stop motion footage of drama sessions.

The Making Of: The Shower Scene

See how we made a small clip from the #BeACreativeProducer Project in which teenagers made the props, animated the scene, and then composed music.

Animating with a Green Screen

This resource shares two accessible and fun ways of animating with a green screen, filming people and using props. Both methods use minimal minimal equipment.

#BeACreativeProducer Workshop with Primary-Aged Children

Animating Old Books

Animated Walk Cycle