Meet Julia, a simple string puppet to make with your kids for Halloween.

You will need:

- 4 mm & 8 mm knitting needles
- 1 x Rowan Kidsilk Haze Sh 599
- Small amounts of Dk weight yarn for hat and hair.
- Stash yarn of any weight for head and arms.
- Stash yarn of any weight in a variety of colours for body and legs.
- Felt or suitable yarn to make felt for shoes.
- Scraps of black Dk to embroider face and for shoe laces.
- Thin piece of ply wood or stiff cardboard, approx 15 cm x 3 cm for attaching puppet strings.

The Hat

With 4 mm needles and DK weight yarn, cast on 56 sts. Beginning with a K row, work 6 rows in stocking stitch.

Row 7 - K3, *K2tog, K4; repeat from * to last 5sts, K2tog, K3. (47 sts)
Row 8 and each foll alt row - Purl.
Row 9 - K2, *K2tog, K1; rep from * to end. (32 sts)
Row 11 - K1, *K2tog, K1; rep from * to last st, K1. (22 sts)
Row 13, 17, 21, 25 & 29 - Knit.
Row 15 - K2, *K2tog, K2; rep from * to end. (17 sts)
Row 19 - K1, *K2tog, K2; rep from * to end. (13 sts)
Row 23 - K1 - *K2tog, K2; rep from * to end. (11 sts)
Row 27 - K3, *K2tog, K2; rep from * to end. (9 sts)
Row 31 - *K2, K2tog; rep from * to last st, K1 (7 sts)
Row 33 - K1, *K2tog; rep from * to end (4 sts)

Thread yarn through remaining stitches leaving a long tail. Use tail to sew side seam using mattress stitch, pulling the seam slightly while sewing will give the tip of the hat a slight twist.
How to make a twisted cord

Used to form the body, arms & legs.

1. Measure lengths of yarn according to the instructions below. (They do not need to be cut individually, but can flow directly from the ball, folding back along each length of yarn when correct measurement is reached.)

2. Now you will need a helper to hold one end of the cord taught while you twist it around and around. (You can both twist to make the job quicker, but make sure to twist in opposite directions!)

3. When the cord becomes tight it will begin to coil around itself if you relax the tension between you and your helper. When this happens, it is ready to twist.

4. While holding the cord with your right hand, grip the centre of the cord with your left hand. Now take the end of the cord from your helper. Release the grip with your left hand and quickly run your left hand down the cord to smooth out the twists.

1. For the body

You will need, 15 x 50 cm lengths of dk or aran weight yarn. Make a twisted cord but instead of knotting the loose end, bind it tightly with yarn, trim and allow the loose end to frill out. (see photo opposite)

Fold the cord in half and bind two halves together at 4 cm intervals.

2. For the arms

You will need, 8 x 60 cm lengths of dk or aran weight yarn. Make a twisted cord. Trim knotted end to give the appearance of a hand. Bind other end of cord with yarn. Cut at fold and frill out to match other hand. Thread cord through torso. (see photo opposite)

3. For the legs

You will need 7 x 100 cm lengths of dk weight yarn. Make a twisted cord. Thread cord through bottom of torso. (see photo opposite)

The Head

With dk or aran weight yarn from your stash.

Make a ball of yarn, winding tightly until the head reaches a circumference of approximately 15 to 16 cm. Leave a tail of 40 cm. With a sharp needle, thread the tail back and forth right through the ball, catching any loose strands on the outside layer.

Use the remaining yarn to attach head to the top of body. (You may need additional stitches in matching yarn to make the join secure.)

With scraps of black dk, use back stitch to embroider the features. The mouth is formed using one long stitch, which is then caught in the middle with one tiny stitch to form the smile. (see photo on following page)

The Hair

Using dk weight yarn, cut 10 bunches of 5 strands measuring 25 cm in length.

Beginning at the forehead take a 30 cm length of yarn and using back stitch attach each bunch to the top of the head. (see photo below for guidance)
To make the dress
You will need 8 mm knitting needles and Rowan Kid Silk Haze or similar.

Back
Cast on 50 sts. Beginning with a K row, work 16 rows in stocking stitch.
With scrap yarn place a marker at each end of previous row.
Beginning with a K row work 8 more rows in stocking stitch.
Cast off.

Front
Work as Back.

Right Sleeve
With right side of back facing. Begin at right back marker and pick up 8 sts along row edge to cast off edge.
Then with right side of front facing, pick up and knit 8 sts from cast off edge, along row edge, to right front marker. (16 sts)
Beginning with a K row work 14 rows in stocking stitch.
Cast off.

Left Sleeve
With right side of front facing. Begin at left front marker and pick up 8 sts along row edge to cast off edge.
Then with right side of back facing, pick up and knit 8 sts from cast off edge, along row edge, to left back marker. (16 sts)
Beginning with a K row work 14 rows in stocking stitch.
Cast off.

Making up
Sew underarm seams. Take a 30 cm length of matching yarn and sew a running stitch around the back and front cast off edges of the dress. Leaving both ends free.
Place the dress on Julia and pull the ends of the running stitch yarn to gather the dress around her neck.
The yarn ends from the twisted cord body will frill out over the neck of the dress to form a collar.

The Shoes
Using the template provided on pattern page 4. Cut out two shoes. Turn the template over and cut out a further two shoes. (Turning is only necessary if the felt has a right and wrong side, if there is no right side, cut four shoes the same.)

Place two shoes together. Leaving a long tail, use black dk to overstitch the edges together, beginning at the position of the lace bow and ending at top of heel. (see photo opposite.)

Keeping the needle attached push the end of one leg inside the shoe and use this needle and yarn to sew in place. Bring the needle out again at the original starting point, and then tie the two ends together to form a lace bow.

Now work a second shoe the same as first, attaching to the second leg and finishing with a lace bow.
**Finishing**

To turn Julia into a (string-operated) puppet, make 3 evenly spaced holes in the piece of ply / or cardboard, attach strings of yarn to Julia’s hands and head, then tie these strings to the holes made in the ply / or cardboard.

Now, hold Julia to your heart (real magic comes from the heart!), and say the spell below loud:

“Basil and chive, Nest and hive, Make my Woolly Witch alive!”

... and voilà!