Make Your Own Dress-Up Dolls To Last The Test Of Time





To create your own dress-up dolls you will need:

- Suitable doll and clothing images
- 80 micron or 125 micron laminating pouches
- A4 or A3 Laminator
- Scissors/crafting blade

Paper and cardboard dolls have been popular for generations, but with constant play comes the dreaded rips and breaks. By laminating your dolls you can enjoy brilliant bright colours and excellent durability. So what you make today really could go down the ages.

Here's how:

Step 1

Search online for templates of dolls to dress up. Good search phrases are 'Paper Doll Templates' or Dress Up Doll Templates'. When you've selected your preferred pictures, print them out.

(Alternatively, of course, you can draw and colour your own – but just remember to make the clothes fit by laying tracing paper over your figure and sketching out the clothes... and don't forget to include the all-important tags!)

Once you've printed them, cut the around your shapes (including tags) so they are ready to laminate.

Top Laminating Tip: by cutting the printed shape out before laminating, it means that you can leave a nice even laminated border around your final shape. This will keep your materials looking great for longer, especially if you will keep them outside. Remember – never cut the laminating pouch around your shape before laminating. It's simple; cut your paper before and your pouch after!

Step 2

Place the single sheet of pictures inside your laminating pouch and pass through your laminator.

(To provide extra sturdiness on the finished items, I opted to laminate using 125 micron pouch thickness (2 x 125), but 80 microns should be adequate in most cases.)

Step 3

Cut neatly around the figures and clothes with a small pair of sharp scissors or a crafting knife leaving a nice even border.

Step 4

Bend the tabs to hang the clothes onto the figure. You may need to run a flat ruler over the crease of the tab several times to achieve a permanent bend and a better fit onto the body.

Don't Stop There!

Why not go to town with this idea? You could try using different uniforms to teach kids about people and their jobs or even use friends and family photos to mix the heads with familiar faces!

