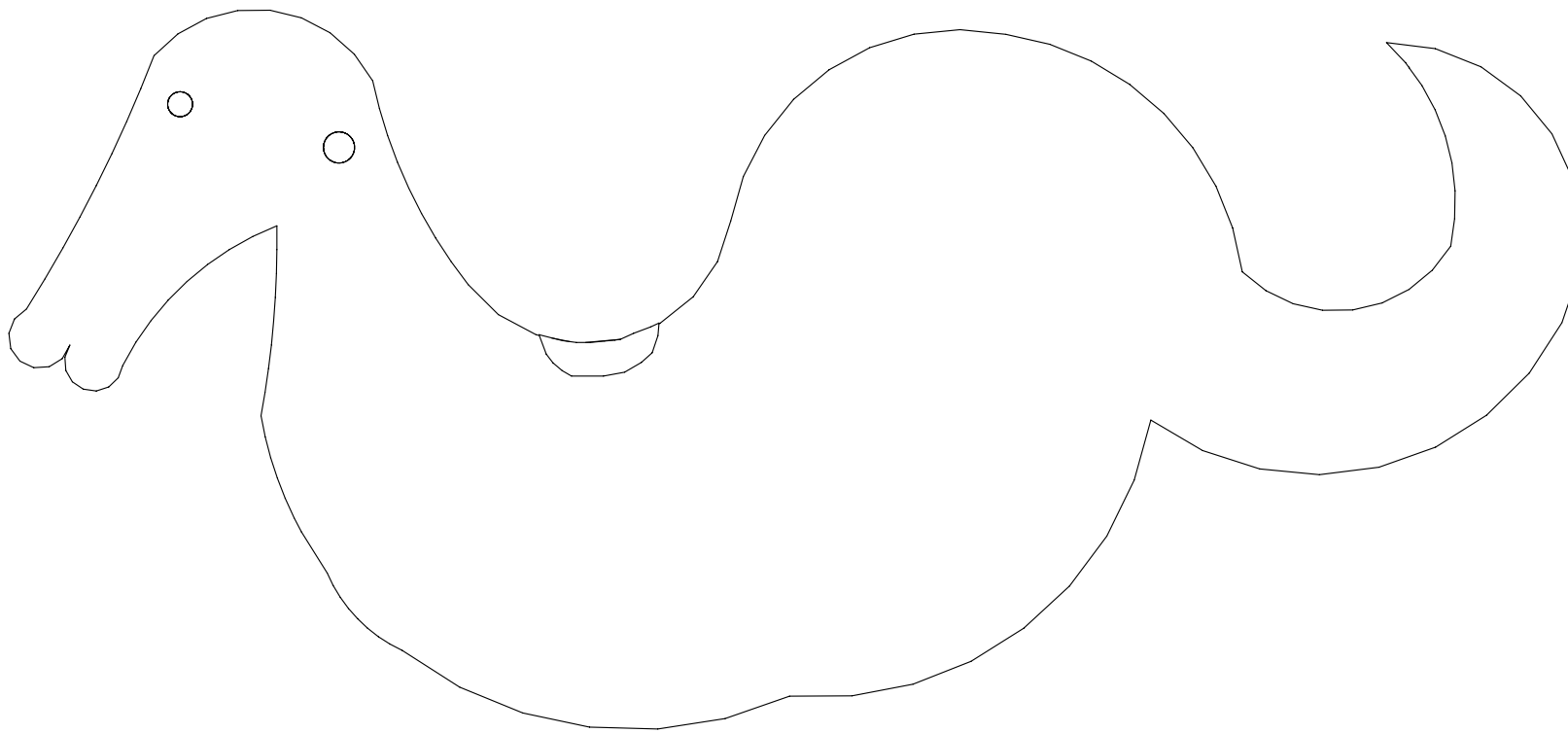


Now it is time to add the handle and eyes and saddle. The handle is made out of 7/8" dowel. It is 10 inches long and goes where ever you want to put it, use your judgement as to what is comfortable and looks good. Drill a 7/8" hole with a forstner bit, making sure you are nice and square to the head. Using a rubber mallet, center the dowel, mark it, then move it so you can put glue on it. Use wood glue for this. Tap it back into place and decide where you want your eyes. I use inexpensive craft stones that are flat on one side and 3/4" round. Where ever you decide to put the eyes, run a pilot bit all the way through, so you are assured of them lining up. Then with a 3/4" forstner bit drill 1/4" deep, glue and clamp the eyes in place and let set for at least an hour.

At this point I like to make a little bit of a saddle for the dragon. It is just a little something to give a wider seat and make the dragon more comfortable. Take a couple of scrap 1x pieces about 6" long and 4" wide. Line one up next to where the child will sit on the dragon's back. trace the curve near the top of the scrap. Simulate the curve about 1" to 1 1/2" wide, what ever looks good to you. sand and glue to the body and let dry.



Now you are ready to do exhaustive sanding. The more you sand the better the project is going to turn out. Decide if you want to use stain or not. If you do you will need to apply multiple coats, allowing adequate dry time between each. Finally it is time to apply polyurethane. After every coat dries you will need to sand with increasingly finer grits, until you are satisfied with the final product.