

## Speedy Squirrels (puppet)



You often catch sight of a grey squirrel dashing from tree to tree or scampering along the ground in the gardens at Shaw House.

This fast and agile creature inspired today's fun and simple craft to make a squirrel puppet.

**To make a grey squirrel puppet, you will need:** a cardboard roll, an A5 sheet of thin card, a pencil, scissors, grey and white paint (mix black and white paint to make grey), a paintbrush, a fine nib permanent marker (black), two large and round wiggly eyes, a glue stick and sticky tape. **Optional:** glue dots.

### Instructions:

1. Gently press downwards and inwards one end of the cardboard roll. This will make the ears of the squirrel.
2. On an A5 sheet of thin card, draw a wavy shape; this is the tail of the squirrel. Cut out.
3. Paint grey the outside of the cardboard roll (body and head of the squirrel) and tail. Leave to dry.
4. Use white paint to add detail to the body of the squirrel (cardboard roll). Leave to dry.
5. Glue the wiggly eyes near the top of the cardboard roll (squirrel's face).
6. With a permanent marker, draw a nose and mouth on the squirrel's face.
7. Secure the tail to the back of the squirrel's body (cardboard roll) – you can use glue, glue dots or sticky tape, or a combination.
8. Your squirrel is now ready for an adventure! To use as a puppet, insert several fingers into the base of the cardboard roll.

**Fun facts:** There are two squirrels in this country. The red squirrel is native, but the grey squirrel isn't and came over from North America in the late 1800s. The grey squirrel has been extraordinarily successful, but has had a disastrous impact on the red squirrel who now only lives in small areas of Britain.