

I Can Make Music!



The activities in this Programme link to the Squirrel Smile Award – I'm Learning a new skill – to make some music from recycled items!

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a 'joining-in' style game, such as 'The farmer wants a wife' or 'Duck, duck, goose' or a circle format ball game. Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p>GAME: Musical Statues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Squirrels dance around the room as a Leader shakes tambourine or maracas</i> ○ <i>When the 'music' stops, the Squirrels must freeze!</i> 	Tambourine or maracas
30	<p>ACTIVITY: Musical Instruments</p> <p>Have fun making 3 different musical instruments from junk items! Divide the Drey into groups and rotate round 3 bases.</p> <p>Drums: empty tubs/stickers/squares of cling film/rubber bands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give each Squirrel a tub to decorate with stickers (supermarkets and Pound shops have a good selection). The tub could be covered with a strip of paper in advance! ○ Stretch a square of cling film over the open end of the tub and secure with a rubber band. This may require some adult help! ○ The stretched cling film makes a great drum skin but beat gently with fingers! <p>Shakers/Maracas: small empty clean bottles with lids – pro-biotic drinks bottles are suitable/stickers or strip of paper and art materials/rice, lentils or small pasta shapes/selotape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Squirrels can decorate the bottles with stickers or colour a strip of paper and then secure with selotape to the bottle ○ Rice, lentils or small pasta shapes can be poured into the bottle and the lid secured with selotape! A small plastic funnel or cone shape of paper can be helpful to avoid spills and adult help may be required! ○ The rice, lentils and pasta make a great variety of sounds when shaken! <p>Guitar: clean plastic food trays – deep or shallow/stickers/rubber bands (varying in thickness, if possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Squirrels can decorate the trays with stickers ○ Slide the rubber bands over the trays ○ The varying thickness of the bands and the width and depth of the trays makes a great range of notes. Strum away!! <p>Don't forget to write the Squirrels names on the instruments with permanent marker or use sticky labels!</p>	<p>Junk items</p> <p>Stickers</p> <p>Rubber bands/cling film</p> <p>Rice/lentils or pasta</p> <p>Plastic funnel or cone of paper</p> <p>Selotape</p> <p>Paper/art materials</p>



10	<p>ACTIVITY: Squirrel Orchestra The Drey can sit in a circle and try and play some favourite songs! Give each Squirrel the opportunity to do their own solo performance or duet, if they prefer! They will discover that they have found a new skill – they can make music! Perhaps some Squirrels are already leaning to play a real musical instrument or this activity might inspire some of them to learn one. In advance, find out if any members of the Leadership team or parents/family members play an instrument which they could bring along to the meeting for an impromptu concert!</p>	Recycled instruments made earlier
5	Closing, Home	



If the Squirrels enjoyed making and playing their drums, they will love a visit from The Gathering Drum! Joe Loughlin has been facilitating drum and percussion workshops since 2003. During that time he has worked with all ages from toddlers to the elderly; all sizes of groups from a small Church Youth Fellowship to a huge Scouting Jamboree and in all places from a child’s birthday party in their own home to a big festival venue like the Belfast Maritime Festival! Joe is also a qualified youth worker with a passion for leadership training and community relations work. This experience puts him a great position to link the effectiveness of drum circles to the issues of team building, community building, confidence and effective group work. He is also an extremely talented musician!

Joe will tailor a drumming workshop to suit your Drey’s individual needs! Check out The Gathering Drum website for more information – www.thegatheringdrum.com

