

# How to make... a Squishy Paint Butterfly Puppet!

By Amber Donovan

Suitable for ages 6 + for independent working

Suitable for ages 3 + with adult help

This puppet is simple to make yet full of movement and life. We will get messy with one of my favourite painting techniques - folding and squishing paint to get a wonderful and unexpected result...

A colourful, fluttery, flappy, splodgy, dancing butterfly!

Join me with this mindful exercise and exploration of colour that is suitable for all ages and abilities.





## How to make... a squishy paint butterfly puppet!

### You will need:

- A sheet of A4 white card
- Scissors
- A pen or pencil
- Paint - acrylic or poster paint in a variety of colours
- Empty pots for paint
- Paint brushes, stick (or you could use your fingers!)
- Something to protect the table from the paint
- Masking tape
- A stick for the puppet rod - the best length is about 20-30cms. Look for a nice straight one in the park! You could also use a garden cane if you have one
- A pipe cleaner
- Sequins (optional)
- PVA glue - if adding sequins
- Shiny silver wrapper - make sure its clean. Eg from a chocolate bar or a crisp packet

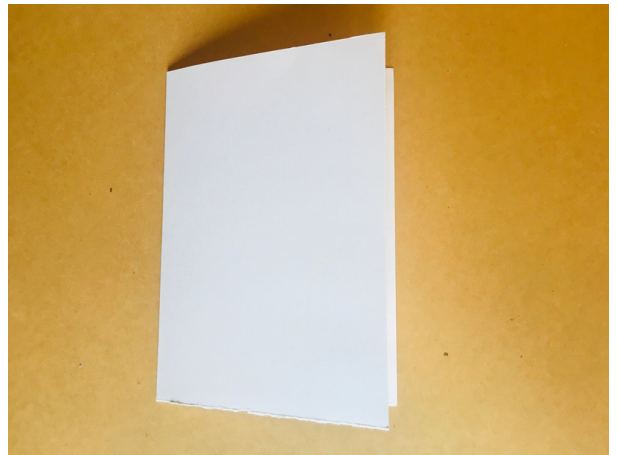
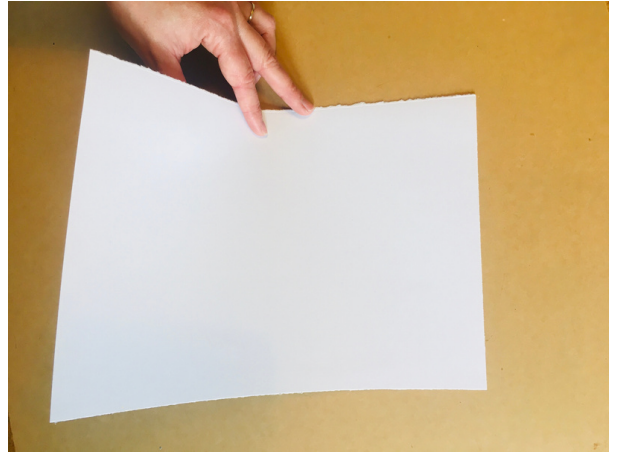


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## Instructions

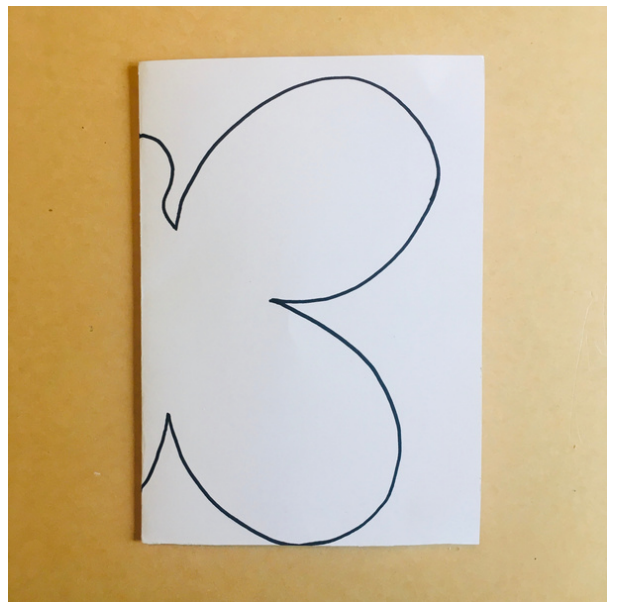
### Step 1

This butterfly puppet starts life as an A4 piece of white card. Fold the card in half along the short edge (holding the paper landscape) pressing firmly down along the crease.



### Step 2

Using the image as a guide draw the outline of half a butterfly with a pencil or a pen. Start at the folded edge and draw a head and body. Then draw the top section of the wing and the bottom section.



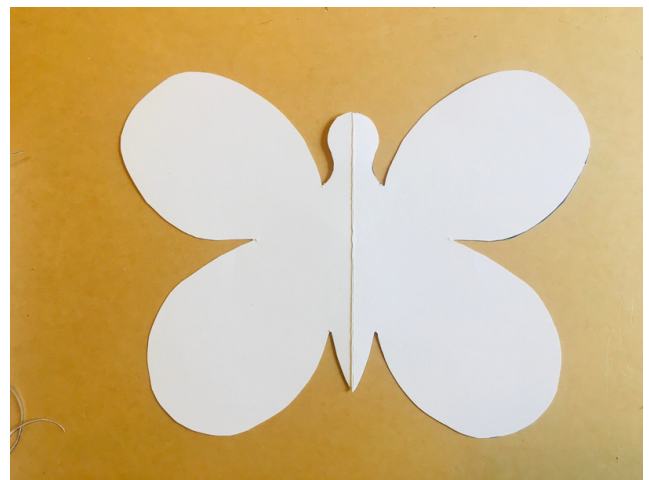
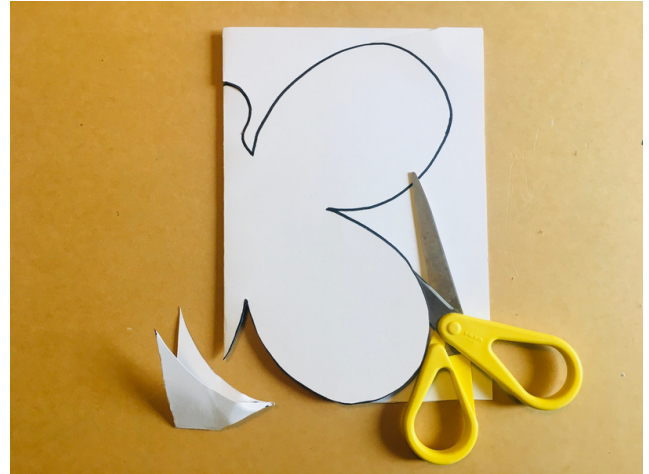


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### Step 3

Keeping it folded cut around the outline of the shape, snipping through both halves of the card at the same time. You might need to ask an adult to help with the cutting.

Open up the paper and you should have your butterfly shape!



### Step 4

Select the paint colours that you want to use - you could put some paint in pots or use them straight from the tube. If your paint is quite thick then mix in a little bit of water in the pots to loosen it. This part can get messy so make sure you put some newspaper or plastic down to protect the table and wear painty clothes.

#### What colours to use?!

When you squish your painting together the colours will merge and mix together. This is my favourite bit. Try out some different combinations to see what comes out. If you use yellow and blue then you should get some sections that mix together to make green. If you use yellow and red you should get some areas that create orange. You can use as many different colours as you like!



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## Step 5 - Painting

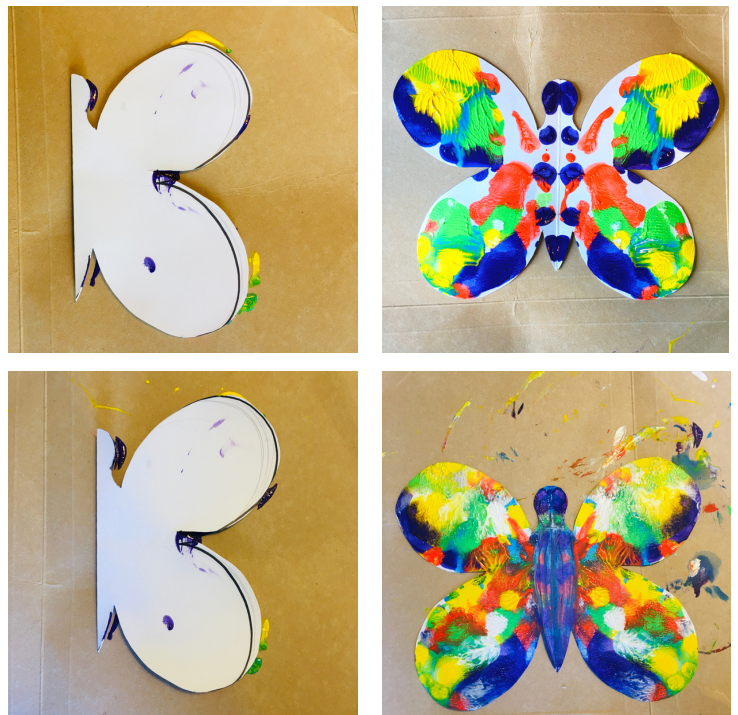
Using a paintbrush, a stick, your finger, or the tube splodge some paint onto one half of the card. Be generous with the paint - simple blobs and drizzles work well! Don't spend too long on this stage (no more than a few minutes) as the paint will start to dry.



## Step 6 - Squishing!

Fold and squish together, pressing down to make sure the paint transfers onto the other side. Open it up and see what fun shapes you have printed. If you like, Step 5 can be repeated again and again - add more paint and maybe introduce another colour. You can build up different layers and each time its a lovely surprise to see what is inside.

If you have any metallic or glittery paint then add some now (and fold and open!)



## Step 7

When you're finished with the painting leave the butterfly to dry.





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### Step 8 (optional)

Add any additional decorations, eg sequins, using PVA glue

Use pieces of shiny silver wrappers (eg from a chocolate bar or a crisp packet) to catch the light. Make sure they're clean first.

Cut or rip thin strips from the shiny wrappers and attach to the underside using masking tape. Stick it near the edge of the wings so that the strips flutter when the wings flap.



### Step 9 - Attaching the rod

Refold your butterfly so that the painted side is inside.

Position the stick (puppet rod) underneath the folded edge to run down the butterfly's body and continue for your handle. Leave the head clear. Attach the rod to the card using 2 strips of masking tape (about 2 inches long). Place the middle of the tape onto the stick so that it forms a cross. Stick down onto the card one side at a time, taking care to pinch the tape all the way around the rod before it meets the card.

If you tape it too tightly without pinching in to wrap around the rod, then the butterfly will not be able to flap properly. Use one piece of tape near the top of the body and one at the bottom to secure the rod to the butterfly.



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### Step 10 - The antenna

Make 2 small holes on either side of the butterfly's head. You might need an adult to help by poking a pen or a piece of wire or a needle through the card. Take the pipe cleaner and fold it in half. Then thread it through one hole from the front of the head to the back and then back through the second hole. Pull the pipe cleaner so that it is equally long on both sides, with the half way point at the back of the head. Secure it at the back with a piece of masking tape. Shape the ends of the antenna by curling them outwards.



**Your butterfly is now ready to fly! Now that Spring is here see if you can spot a butterfly outside on a warm day. You might see one dancing around the park, feeding from the flowers. Watch how they move and see if you can make your butterfly fly in the same way.**

