OPENING MOUTH HAND PUPPET ANIMALS
Pattern kindly donated by Mary

The mouse, dog and fox all follow the same pattern apart from the ears.

The main body and mouth are knitted on 4mm pins using 2 x DK yarn.
The arms and ears are knitted on 3mm pins with single DK yarn

You'll also need suitable buttons for the eyes and the nose – see picture. Please don't use safety eyes, as these have sharp back edges and are only suitable for stuffed items. The rounded ones that Mary has used are particularly effective. Please secure them extra firmly.

Abbreviations:

sts - stitches;
k - knit;
p - purl;
ss - stocking stitch (1 row k, 1 row p);
gs - garter stitch (every row knit)
k2tog - k 2 stitches together;
psso - pass slipped stitch over the stitch just knitted
inc1 - increase by knitting into the front and back of the same stitch

Main piece (jumper and outer head)

With 4mm pins and 2x DK yarn in jumper colour, cast on 46 sts
(k2, p2) to last 2 sts, k2
(p2, k2) to last 2 sts, p2
repeat the last 2 rows 4 times (10 rows from start)
ss 26 rows
gs 4 rows for neck edge
change to head colour
ss 4 rows
k23, turn (put remaining 23 sts on a holder)
starting with a p row, ss 17 rows
*k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
repeat the last 2 rows until you have 5 sts
cast off.
rejoin yarn to remaining 23 sts
k 1 row
p 1 row
work from * to end (nb: lower jaw is much shorter than upper jaw)

Inner mouth

With 4mm pins and 2 x DK in mouth colour yarn, cast on 3 sts
inc, k1, inc
p 1 row
k1, inc1, k to last 2 sts, inc1, k1
repeat the last 2 rows until you have 19 sts
ss 17 rows (starting with a p row)
k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
repeat the last 2 rows to 3 sts
cast off

To make up main piece
It's easier to sew on (or embroider) the nose and eyes before sewing up.
Sew jumper together and first 6 rows of head
With right sides together, pin then sew mouth to head - it's smaller than the head so it needs to be eased in. Sew in any loose ends and turn right side out.

Dog Ear (2)
With 3mm pins and single DK yarn in head colour, cast on 8 sts
gs 8 rows
inc1, k to last st, inc1
gs 7 rows
inc1, k to last st, inc1
gs 15 rows
k1, k2tog, k 6, k2tog, k1
k 3 rows
k1, k2tog, k4, k2tog, k1
k1 row
k2tog 4 times
cast off
Sew to sides of head

Mouse Outer Ear (2)
With 3mm pins and single DK yarn in head colour, cast on 8 sts
p 1 row
inc1 in every stitch
ss 5 rows (starting with p row)
k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
repeat the last 2 rows until 6 sts remain
cast off

Mouse Inner Ear (2)
With 3mm pins and single DK yarn in pink colour, cast on 6 sts
p 1 row
inc1 in every stitch
ss 5 rows (starting with p row)
k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
repeat the last 2 rows until 4 sts remain
cast off
Put outer and inner ear together right sides facing, sew together leaving the bottom open. Outer ear is larger than inner ear so ease to fit. Turn right side out, sew across the bottom and attach to head.

Fox Ear (2)
With 3mm pins and single DK yarn, cast on 19 sts
ss 4 rows
k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k4, k2tog, k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k4, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k2, k2tog, k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k2, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k2tog, k1, slip 1, k1, psso, k2tog, k1
p 1 row
k1, k2tog, k1, slip1, k1, psso, k1
p 1 row
cut yarn leaving enough length to sew up, pass sewing needle through sts,
draw up and fasten off. fold in half with right sides together and sew down
side. Turn right way out, sew across bottom and sew to head.

Arms
With 3mm pins and single DK yarn, cast on 10 sts
ss 20 rows
gs 4 rows for cuff
change to hand colour
ss 8 rows
cut yarn leaving enough length to sew up, pass sewing needle through sts,
draw up and fasten off
sew up and lightly stuff, then sew to body at top of jumper just below neck
edge