

Connecting with nature



Resources

- Cardboard tubes
- Vegetable shortening (available in most supermarkets)
- Bird seed
- A butter knife
- Twine

Steps:

1. Use a butter knife (your children should be able to do this – it may get messy so make sure you have laid down some sort of table covering) to spread vegetable shortening on a clean cardboard tube.
2. Roll the cardboard tube on a plate filled with birdseed. Different mixes will attract different types of bird. Check the mixes to ensure that you are not using any with nuts. (Children may have allergies so always check the ingredients). Leave to set.
3. If desired, string a loop of twine through the cardboard tube. Children may need help with making a hole –an adult/ older siblings could help.
4. Choose a spot to hang your bird feeder: • on a bush, • or slide it onto a branch • or outside a window if you live in a flat
5. Your cardboard tube feeder **is complete!**

Connecting with nature

Due to their demanding appetites birds need a constant supply of food that they can easily locate and consume. The recent drop in temperature is likely to have affected this supply so why not create a simple bird feeder with your children this week.





What next?

Now that your bird feeder is complete you can start to enjoy the visitors to your garden or window – this will support your children's observation skills.

Resources:

- Binoculars (if available)
- Digital camera or mobile phone

1. Children can take photos using a phone or a digital camera.

2. These photos can be printed to create a scrap book.

- You will need a notebook
- Scissors
- Glue
- A pen/marker

3. Identify the birds – the RSPB has a great identifier list that can help.

4. Older children can name the birds in their scrapbook and even write some descriptions.

Numeracy activities:

Number songs and action rhymes are a great way to introduce children to numeracy.

- Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill
- Five little ducks
- Five little owls.

Older children may want to keep count of the feathery visitors:

- They could create a tally chart and then create a graph for a period
- Younger children could do the same using pictures of the birds.



Literacy activities:

Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds found in words. This is a critical skill for children to master on their journey to becoming readers.

To build up this skill, children need countless opportunities to strengthen their listening ability and attention span.

- The bird listening game is a perfect pre literacy activity for this as in order to name the bird by their song children will have to focus on that sound and the unique qualities that make up the sound – great for when they start learning their phonic sounds.

The RSPB has a great bird song ID playlist with some common birds that you will find in and around your garden.



“

A child, who more than anyone else is a spontaneous observer of nature, certainly needs to have at his disposal material upon which he can work. ”

Montessori, The Discovery of the child, p. 7

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