

## Nursery Activity Ideas

### **Bird Cake/Survey**

Birds are very busy now feeding their chicks. Why don't you and your child make a bird cake and hang it in your garden or outside a window? Your child might like to identify and find out more about the birds that come to visit.

They could also record the number of birds they spot on a daily basis.

See bird cake recipe below.

### **Jamboree**

Music and dance can be really good for helping children to express their emotions, practice fine and gross motor skills, develop coordination and stay fit and healthy.

Why not ask your child to create their own instruments? Try plastic bottles containing lentils, buttons, dried peas etc; drums from old tins, pots and pans; things that make scrunchy noises; elastic bands pulled around a piece of card or empty tissue box or cardboard tubes.

Once the instruments are made the music and dancing can begin. Scarves can also be nice for waving and throwing.

Perhaps your child/children might like to put on a show for the rest of the family! This could involve making tickets and planning refreshments for the interval.

### **Weather Station**

Your child might be interested in studying the weather through a number of different scientific methods.

On a windy day make kites and find a place to fly them. What kind of materials make the best kites? Can you work out which way the wind is blowing?

Time how long it takes for ice to melt in sunny conditions using a timer.

Find a clear bottle and mark it in centimetres, and then on a rainy day put it outside and record how much rain falls.

Use the sun to study your shadow. Is it in front or behind you? Why does that happen? Is your shadow longer or shorter than you?

Find out what makes the sky blue.

What makes a rainbow? Use a garden hose on a sunny day to recreate one.

Make a cloud using a glass jar, hot water, hairspray and ice. Fill jar half full with hot water, spray some hairspray into jar and cover the top with the upturned lid with the ice in it. Watch the cloud form, release lid and your cloud will float away.

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| <p><b>Colour/Number/Texture Games</b></p> <p>Empty egg boxes are great for these.</p> <p><b>Colour game</b> - ask your child to use different colours of paint or pens to cover the inside sections of the egg box. Then when you are outside see if they can find natural materials to match the colours.</p> <p><b>Number game</b> – this time write numbers inside the egg boxes and ask your child to find items to correspond with the number.</p> <p><b>Texture game</b> – ask your child to find something soft, smooth, sticky, fluffy, tickly and flaky</p> | <p><b>Memory/Matching Game</b></p> <p>This game is good for developing both memory and identification skills.</p> <p>When you and your child are outdoors either in the garden, park or woodland ask them to find a selection of different things e.g. stone, feather, leaves, pine cone, flower etc.</p> <p>Spread these out on the ground and help your child to identify and name the items. Then cover with a cloth, a scarf for example and ask your child to recall all the different items.</p> <p>Alternatively you could ask your child to see if they can find the same items again.</p> | <p><b>Make A Mini Nature Reserve</b></p> <p>Fill your mini nature reserve with a few features and watch as it evolves over time. If you don't have a garden this can be done on a windowsill.</p> <p>Your child may want to take photographs or draw pictures as a record of what occurs over time.</p> <p>See instructions below.</p> |
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## BIRD CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients:

- Bird Seed (can be purchased in Supermarkets)
- Cooked Rice (optional)
- Grated Cheese
- Raisins
- Breadcrumbs (optional)
- Hard cooking fat (lard or suet)

Pine cones, yoghurt pots, coconut shells and string

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl, add fat and mix until all the ingredients come together.

Cover pine cones in mixture, or fill yoghurt pots/coconut shells (easier to fix string to these items before filling them and hang where you can see

## **MINI NATURE RESERVE**

Materials:

Window box or alternative container

Yoghurt Pot

Small Log

Rock

Compost – peat free if possible

Choose a safe place where you can easily inspect it

Fill box with compost

Add features

Push yoghurt pot into compost until just the top is visible and fill with water

Leave and observe what happens over time