



Make a simple bird feeder and discover the birds around you

Autumn can be an important time for birds as they search for food before the colder months arrive. Create your own simple bird feeder and spend some time watching to see which feathered visitors you can spot.

Materials

- 1 empty cardboard toilet roll tube
- Bird seed
- A bird-safe, nut-free spread
- String
- A spoon or blunt knife
- A tray or plate

How to play

1. Use a spoon or blunt knife to spread a thin layer of the bird-safe spread over the outside of the cardboard tube.
2. Pour some bird seed onto a tray or plate. Roll the tube through the seed, gently pressing it into the spread so that the seeds stick.
3. Thread a piece of string through the tube and tie it securely.
4. Hang your bird feeder somewhere suitable where birds can safely visit. A quiet spot where you can see it from a window is ideal.
5. Now comes the exciting part. Sit quietly and watch to see if any birds visit your feeder. Can you spot different colours, sizes or types of birds?

How Does This Benefit Children?

Understanding the Natural World - Children develop an awareness of birds and their needs, helping them understand how animals find food and survive in different seasons.

Observation and Concentration - Watching and waiting for birds encourages children to slow down, concentrate and carefully observe what is happening around them.

Language and Communication - Talking about the birds you see introduces new vocabulary and encourages children to describe what they notice.

Fine Motor Skills - Spreading, rolling, pouring and threading help children develop hand strength, coordination and control.

Early Maths Skills - Counting birds, comparing their sizes and noticing patterns in their visits provides natural opportunities to develop early mathematical thinking.

Care and Responsibility - Looking after a bird feeder gives children an opportunity to think about living things and develop a sense of care and responsibility for the natural world.

Keep the Wonder Going

Keep a simple bird-watching chart and record the birds you spot. You could record:

What colour was the bird? Was it big or small? How many birds did you see? What did the bird do? Did it visit alone or with other birds?

Next time you are outside, listen carefully. Can you hear any birds before you can see them?

A Little Autumn Challenge: Can you spot three different types of birds visiting your feeder?

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