

Theme: Birds

Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- “Fly” like a bird
- Toss a large, brightly colored ball and pretend it is a giant “egg”—try not to “crack” it!
- Make bird wings from colored poster paper; attach handles on each end for child to hold onto. Children can run around pretending to be birds.
- Duck, Duck, Goose!
- Nature walk: Look for birds and identify them (you can discuss them at circle time)

Math Activities:

- Count eggs, birds, nests with pictures, flannel boards, etc.
- Divide by color and size.
- Look at likenesses and differences.
- Do some basic addition and subtraction while counting the items listed above.
- Divide by habitat (i.e., cold or warm, tropical or other)

Science Activities:

- On the science table, display an assortment of feathers, owl pellets, bird seed, and magnifying glasses.
- Sand/water table:
 - Sand – sea gulls, ostriches
 - Water – swans, ducks
 - Ice - penguins
- Does a feather sink or float?
- What are owl pellets made of?
- What do different birds eat?
- Display bird identification books.

Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- See math and art sections for themed activities.
- Put out whatever manipulatives you have on hand.

Snacks:

- “Birds’ nest” of bean sprouts with salad
- Trail mix (“bird food”)
- Apple slices covered in peanut butter and rolled in chopped nuts (provided there are no nut allergies, of course)
- Eggs (decorate boiled eggs, or serve them scrambled or fried)
- Decorate sugar cookies in the shapes of birds, eggs, etc.

Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

- Visit your local pet shop, zoo, or aviary.

Songs & Fingerplays:

- The following website has a wide assortment of bird songs and fingerplays:
<http://www.alphabet-soup.net/mini/bird.html>

Books:

Best Nest by P. D. Eastman
Birds by Helen Frost
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems
Baby Einstein: Birds by Julie Aigner-Clark
Fine Feathered Friends: All About Birds by Tish Rabe
Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard
The Burgess Bird Book for Children by Thornton W. Burgess
The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story by Anne Braff Brodzinsky
Bird by David Burnie
Lion and the Little Red Bird by Elisa Kleven
Charlie Bird Count to the Beat by Andy Blackman Hurwitz
The Story About Ping by Marjorie Flack
Bird Calls by Frank Gallo
There is a Bird on Your Head! by Mo Willems

About Birds by Cathryn Sill
Are You My Mother? by P. D. Eastman
1000 Facts on Birds by Jinny Johnson
The Baby Beebee Bird by Diane Redfield Massie
Bird Songs by Betsy Franco-Feeny
Bird, Nests, and Eggs by Mel Boring
Why Do Birds Sing? by Joan Holub
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss
Duck Soup by Jackie Urbanovic
Backyard Birding for Kids by Fran Lee
A Blessing from Above by Patti Henderson
Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester
Giggle, Giggle, Quack by Doreen Cronin

Dramatic Play:

Add feather boas to your dramatic play area; black and white clothes to dress like a penguin; aprons to be the "old mother hen"; etc.

Art:

- Feather painting
- Apple printing
- Finger painting on paper with a bird shape cut out of the center
- Spackle or screen painting (rub a toothbrush dipped in paint over a screen box to spatter paint on the paper below) over a bird shape
- Collage of bird pictures from old magazines (see your library for donations)
- Decorate paper eggs with crepe paper scraps and glue
- Paint birds on paper and let the children hang them from strings either from the ceiling or from a tree outside

Circle Time Activities:

- Bird calls and songs – which bird makes which sound? Why do they sing? Try to imitate bird calls. Listen to a recording of bird calls (check with your local library).
- How do birds fly?
- Bird habitats – How are nests made and what do birds use to create nests? What type of climate do certain birds prefer?
- Lifecycle of a bird
- Pet birds, talking birds, and how to train birds – invite a special speaker
- Letter "B"
- What do birds eat?

Resources:

Pictures of beautiful birds:

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Birds&FORM=MFEIMG&PUBL=Google&CREA=userid174327ad33a44f97ad641d2210684d075c2d#>

Bird calls:

<http://www.naturesongs.com/birds.html>

Bird habitats:

<http://www.birdnature.com/habitats.html>

Lifecycle of birds (10-slide PowerPoint you can show children)

<https://www.msu.edu/~goepfert/exhibit/bird/sld001.htm>