

# Wildcat Hills Nature Center



## Lil' Explorers: Birds

### Birds!

This lesson plan was created to help you fill the day with fun, exciting outdoor learning opportunities. This topic will utilize items commonly found in or around our homes.

#### Outdoor Nature Play:

Go outside in search of birds. You have to be very quiet, so you don't scare all of the birds away. Do you see any birds? What color are they? Are they doing anything exciting? Can you listen for birds? What sounds are they making?

Write down your observations or draw a picture when you get back inside.

#### Books:

Scholastics (limited free online books and videos)

<https://bookflix.digital.scholastic.com/pair/detail/bk0016pr/start?authCtx=U.794217314>

*Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen

*Owls and other Animals with Amazing Eyes* by Susan Labelle

#### Indoor Play:

##### **Paper Feathers**

Supplies:  
Craft paper/cardstock  
Scissors  
Pen  
Tape (optional)

##### Directions:

Draw feather outlines with a line down the middle of the feather. Have child cut out feathers and make small cuts toward the center of the feather all around the edge. Fringing may be a bit difficult so you can draw a few lines for the child to cut on and have tape handy in case they cut through the feather. Once all the feathers are cut you can have the child glue them to paper to make a collage, tie them to a string and make a mobile, or whatever creative thing your child comes up with.

#### Sensory:

##### **Build a bird nest**

Use playdough, clay, sticks, leaves, feathers, or any outdoor materials to build a bird nest. Birds nest come in all sorts of shapes, so let your creativity shine!

##### **Bird Seed Slime:**

8oz bottle clear glue  
3-6 tablespoons liquid starch  
1 cup bird seeds

Add the glue to a mixing bowl.

Slowly add the 2 tablespoons of Liquid Starch to the bowl. Mix with a spoon until it becomes thicker and then continue to mix with your hands until you receive the desired consistency. Note: If the slime is too sticky, add more of the liquid starch to the mixture. Add bird seed to create an interesting texture to your slime!

#### Crafts:

##### **Bird Binoculars:**

Supplies:  
2 Toilet Paper rolls  
Yarn  
Colored washi tape/tape  
Scissors  
Glue  
Hole punch (1/8")

##### Instructions:

Start by taping down one end of the yarn. Then wrap the yarn around the TP roll and tape the other end. Some kids wanted to only wrap one piece, other kids wanted to wrap three or four. It was completely their choice.

When they are finished wrapping and taping, hand them the glue and let them squeeze one line down the middle of one of the TP rolls. We then squeezed the two rolls together, and used a long piece of masking tape to run all the way inside and around the two rolls to keep them in place.

Punch two holes on either side of the rolls. Tie a long piece of yarn through the holes so the binoculars go over their heads.

#### Snack:

##### **Bird Nest Cookies:**

Ingredients:  
2 cups butterscotch or chocolate chips  
1 cup peanut butter  
2 cups chow mein noodles or corn flakes  
peanuts, peanut M&M's, or jelly beans  
wax paper

##### Directions:

Pour the chips and measured peanut butter into a microwave safe bowl. Put into the microwave on reduced power until the mixture melts. Stir until smooth. Add noodles and stir. Spoon onto wax paper. Use your fingers to shape the spoonful into a nest. Place the nuts or candy on top. Allow the cookies to firm on the countertop or in the refrigerator