

Suggested Curriculum links (Kindergarten)

100-1: Develop vocabulary and use language to bring meaning to what is seen and thought. Including animal, wild/domestic, habitat and adapt.

202-1: Use personal observations when asked to describe characteristics of animals studied.

100-7: Recognize distinguishing body features that help an animal meet its needs.

100-7: Describe the different ways that animals move to meet their needs.

Overview

When the coldest months arrive, birds could sure use a little extra help. In this activity, students will help birds find enough food to survive the winter months ahead.

Objectives

- To introduce kindergarteners to local non migratory birds and their winter diet.

Background

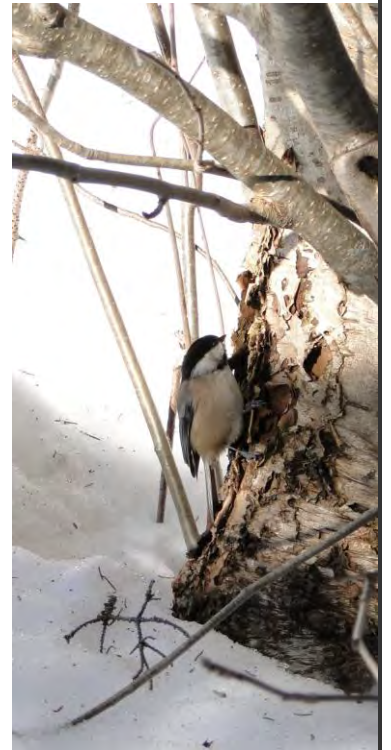
While some birds fly South to enjoy warmer climates during the Winter seasons, others hang tight to their homes. These birds on the Avalon include blue jays, gray jays, black capped chickadees, and juncos, among certainly others.

These birds during warmer months make feasts out of berries, fruits, seeds, nuts, insects and plants. But as the colder months ware on, the variety of their diets and the availability of their food becomes limited.

Caching food is common among winter birds. To cache food is to hide and save it for a later, hungrier date. According to birds, the best hiding spaces for food include under tree bark or shingles but sometimes they choose to bury their food as well.

Materials Per Child

- Half a paper towel roll
- A foot of yarn
- $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of seed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of honey
- Popsicle stick
- Wax paper
- Baggy (optional)



At the Fluvarium

Join us for *Jack Frost and His Freshwater Friends!* Students help 'Jack Frost' search for the freshwater plants and animals that seem to 'hide away' whenever he comes to play. Through this program, your Kindergarten students are introduced to native flora and fauna in their winter state and discover how these plants and animals are able to survive the coldest of seasons.



Procedure

1. Cut paper towel rolls at least in half. In order to ensure each child can make their own feeder, if need be cut each roll into four or five smaller rolls.
2. On a long, narrow table (or desks put together) spread out the wax paper and have the children stand or sit on either side. Alternatively, give each child a square of wax paper to use as an individual placemat.
3. Pour the seed out on the wax paper.
4. Distribute among the children the popsicle stick, paper towel roll, yarn, and honey.
5. Each child, using the popsicle stick, will spread honey over the paper towel roll. Peanut butter or lard would be an alternative to honey.
6. Next they will roll their honey covered roll in the seed.
7. In order to make a hanger, each child will put yarn through the rolls, and pull the ends up around to tie together, encircling the roll.
8. If you're choosing to send the bird feeder home with them, wrap them up in baggies. Or head outside to put them in trees and bushes.
9. Toss the leftover seed around the playground.

Extensions

1. Ask the students if they've seen and birds feasting at their feeders. Use the storybook *Birds in Your Backyard* by Barbara Herkert to identify them.
2. Read *Animals in Winter* by Harrietta Bancroft, Richard Van Gelder, and Helen Davie to learn how other animals feed in the colder months.