

Easter nature nests

Connect to nature by exploring how birds build nests and creating your own.

Learning aims

- Develop knowledge of the natural world
- Create using natural materials
- Develop language skills
- Make choices and follow own ideas
- Use mathematical language for shape, colour, size of each nest
- Explore similarities and differences in bird nests
- Make decisions about how to solve problems.



Resources

- Access to the outdoors
- Tub, box, bag to collect natural materials to build nests
- Access to the internet to view bird nest building [video](#)
- Camera (optional).

Activity Outline

1. This time of year (March and April) is when birds are busy building nests to lay their eggs in. Read through the RSPB guidance on nests prior to beginning this activity – [How Birds Build Nests](#)
2. Ask children about their own experiences of bird nests - do they have any in their garden? Do they see any nests high up in trees on their way to nursery?
3. Ask children about how birds build their nests - what do they use? (Beaks and feet). What material do they use to build a nest? Birds can't go to the shop to buy their materials so where do they find it all?
4. Look at images of different types of bird nests and talk about the shape, size, materials used and where the nest is. For example, is it high in a tree or hidden in a bush?
5. Discuss the safety of the newly laid eggs or hatched chicks, such as never touching a nest, staying back from a nest site and why.
6. Show children the 8 minute video of a blue tit building a nest in a bird box (link above) so they can see the process from start to finish. Note how the bird checks the box is safe and dry before starting to build the nest. Discuss the materials the bird is adding
7. Take the children on a walk-in nature and ask them to choose materials they think birds may use to build a nest. Collect the materials they choose. If it is a dry day you may need to take a bottle of water to pour onto dry mud to create a wet mud patch for children to use for building their nests
8. Once you have collected your materials, choose a spot to build your nest/s
9. Encourage the children to select materials and build a nest. This can be done as a whole group or in smaller groups depending on the numbers
10. Offer children the opportunity to record their creative nest-building structures by taking photos of their finished creation.

Extending the activity

- Discuss what practical things you can do to help birds nest building. Look together at the RSPB list of suggestions on the link above
- Set up your own feeding station to help birds find food during the nest building, chick-rearing months
- Develop a craft project to build your own bird boxes for next year.

Special considerations

Follow your setting's own risk assessments when taking children on a nature walk.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Art of Expression and Creativity - publication](#)