

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Creating bird friendly grounds

Encouraging your children to care for natural wildlife provides opportunities to model values and empathy. Involve the children in planning and creating your bird friendly nursery grounds so they begin to develop respect for our feathered friends.

Creating bird friendly areas is relatively easy and once they are established you will find that visiting birds will be plentiful and noticeable, making the rewards satisfying.

- Ensure your nursery grounds are kept litter free, as this may harm the visiting birds
- Birds need a biodiverse environment and this will need to be planned for, depending on the nursery grounds you have available
- The more native plants and trees that are present, the more likely birds will visit. Plan to have fruit trees and shrubs, patches of long grass and native flowers. Ask parents or local businesses for donations or help with planting
- If you have small nursery grounds, being aware of what is outside the nursery grounds may help you to plan what you can do inside. For example, if there is an overhanging tree, create bird feeders to hang from the branches and plant a wildflower bed underneath (this can be as simple as a tyre or other container with compost and wildflowers)
- Plan to keep patches of natural areas together. For example, a log pile in the middle of tarmac will not get many visitors, but position it under a hedge or tree and it will be more successful. If you make a log pile, put large logs in the centre, with smaller ones around the outside so that children can turn them over and see which insects are there
- Plan to have a compost bin. This is useful to show children how to recycle fruit and vegetable waste (such as from the snack area) and can also be a source of worms which can be used to entice birds to visit
- Plan for water containers which are easily accessible for regular cleaning but are also in a quiet, safe and sheltered spot
- If you have a variety of home-made or purchased bird feeders, bird tables or water containers it is a good idea to allocate a member of staff to be responsible for cleaning them and refilling them on a



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regular basis so that they don't spread diseases from mouldy foods. Don't forget to involve the children in maintaining the bird friendly areas.

NDNA products to support you

- Course - [Little Scientists Leading the Way](#)
- Course - [Developing quality outdoor provision](#)
- Publication - [Fun for all seasons](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna