

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.

Activity: Edible pictures for birds

Join the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and encourage a variety of birds to visit your grounds using these scrummy edible pictures.

Learning aims

- Identify different types of common garden bird species e.g. blackbird, robin, sparrow
- Develop vocabulary for features of birds e.g. feathers, wings, beak
- Understand what birds need to be healthy e.g. seeds, water.



Resources

For edible pictures:

- Stiff card (such as from a box)
- Soft lard or vegetable fat
- Marker pen, old paintbrushes
- Bird seed (check for nuts/nut traces).

For identifying birds and their features visit the resources available on the [RSPB website](#).

Activity outline

1. Use a pen to draw an image outline on the card
2. Dip the paintbrush into the soft fat and paint over the image lines, making sure there is plenty of fat on the card
3. Sprinkle bird seed over the fat, gently pressing it in. Shake off any excess seeds and save for another picture
4. Place the pictures where you are able to view them from inside, preferably near any trees or bushes so the birds feel safe. You may wish to sprinkle some seed nearby to encourage the birds to visit

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5. Watch to see who comes to eat the pictures. Use the RSPB resources to identify the bird types and their different features. Extension ideas:
 - Sound hunt: Take the children on a hunt for sounds indoors and/or outdoors. Encourage them to identify and then imitate the sounds e.g. footsteps, birdsong, cars, doors closing etc.
 - Listen and match: Record the children making one of the sounds, print a photo of the corresponding animal or object and encourage the children to match the picture to the sound
 - Sound chant: Ask each child to make a sound. In a small group, children take turns making a sound to produce a group sound chant.

Extension ideas:

- Sign up for the [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) and submit your results to their survey
- Try using different types of seeds on separate pictures to see if certain bird types prefer one rather than another.