



Farrington Nature Linc: At Home Activity Guide

Name of Activity: Bird Feeder Craft

Time: 30 min

Goals:

- Experience wildlife near your own home
- Learning about the food that birds eat
- Observing bird behavior (time of day they feed, types of birds in yard, seasonality of birds, migrating birds, backyard bird counters/surveyors)

Supplies needed:

- pine cones (or forage for pine cones with kids if there is enough time)
- peanut butter
- paper plate
- plastic butter knife
- bird seed or any seed you might have at home (e.g. pepitas/pumpkin seeds, sunflower seed, sesame, or even peanuts)
- string or twine
- scissors
- Optional: If you have access to a printer, you can print out bird watch tally sheets (below). Or, take a piece of paper and writing utensil to make your own tally sheet.

Additional Safety notes here if necessary: If you have students with nut allergies, consider jellies or jams as the sticky base for your feeder instead of peanut butter

Photo of Finished Product:



Step by step with photo instructions

1. Look for Pinecones

Head to a local park and look for at least one pine cone. Bigger ones are usually better than small ones for this activity. If you can find one where the pieces of the cone are mostly open, it will work better than one where it is tightly closed.



2. Once back inside, prepare your other materials



3. Use scissors to cut a piece of string or twine about the length of your arm



4. Tie the string to the top of the pinecone. Get an older kid or adult to help you if this is hard. Then tie a knot with the loose ends



5. Put out your plate, knife and peanut butter.
Spread the peanut butter on the pinecone.
Make sure to get peanut butter on the whole
cone.



6. Roll your pinecone in birdseed.



7. Tada! You've made a bird feeder!



8. Find a spot to hang your bird feeder, and
watch for birds to come have a snack.



Scale it Down:

For younger kids, you can have them spread the peanut butter on the pinecone with their fingers instead of using a knife- you can also substitute a paper towel roll or toilet paper tube instead of a pinecone. Also just having a paper plate or bowl of bird seed would be fun for kids (and pets!) to watch as birds come and have a snack

Scale it Up/Extensions:

For kids who are looking for extensions of this lesson-try doing some observations! Pick the same time each day for a week straight and tally how many birds you were able to see in your backyard. Or pick a day and choose 5 times and see if there are more birds in your backyard/local park in the morning or evening. Attached is a bird tally sheet for observing birds doing different activities.

Bird Watching Tally Sheet

DESCRIPTION	TALLY	TOTAL
 sitting		
 walking		
 flying		
 standing		
 singing		

