

Build a Nest



VIRGINIA
AQUARIUM
& MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Would you make a good mama bird?

Duration

Preparation: 10 minutes

Activity: 20 minutes

Supplies

- Twigs, pine needles, grasses, leaves, moss, etc.
OR
- Yarn, ribbon, paper strips, cotton balls, etc.
- Bowl for each person

Background

Birds, and some other animals, build **nests** to have a place to lay their eggs. There are lots of different kinds of nests, made from lots of different kinds of materials – everything from sticks and leaves to mud to even bird spit! All these nests have the same job, to help keep the eggs and baby birds safe and protected.

Instructions

1. Show the child a few pictures of birds' nests. What do you notice about them? Have you ever seen a real bird's nest?
2. With an older child, work with them to gather supplies around the house or yard. For a younger child, present them with supplies.
3. With the bowl as a base, build your own nest. Talk about the imaginary birds that might come lay eggs in your nests. What would make your nest a good home?
4. For an extra challenge, can you build a nest without using a bowl?

Vocabulary

Nest: a place that an animal builds to hold its eggs and care for its young.

Extension

Gather items for birds to use in their nests. Place them loosely in a suet holder or net bag, like those that citrus fruit comes in, pull a few ends through the mesh, and hang outside for birds to use. Good items include shredded paper, pine needles, short pieces of yarn made from natural fibers, pet hair not treated with flea and tick repellent, straw, dried grass, and twigs.

Examples of Bird Nests



"Bird's Nest" by Rugged Lens is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



"bird's nest" by grace_kat is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

Examples of Bird Nests



“Bird Nest” by Sikachu! is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



“Nesting” by icathing is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0