

Birdseed Ornaments

This craft encourages children to care for wildlife while developing fine motor skills and exploring natural materials. Making birdseed ornaments helps children learn about healthy habits for animals, the importance of caring for their environment, and the concept of giving back to nature. It's perfect for cold winters, when food can be scarce for backyard birds.

What you need:

- Birdseed (enough for small ornaments)
- Sticky binder such as peanut butter, gelatin (prepare according to package) or allergy-safe options, like sunflower seed butter
- Cookie cutters (shapes like stars, hearts, trees, or circles)
- A straw to make a hole at the top of the ornament
- String or yarn for hanging
- Hard surface and wax paper or tray to work on

What to do:

1. Prepare the workspace by covering a hard surface with wax paper or a tray to catch the birdseed.
2. Have the children wash their hands before starting.
3. Mix the birdseed with the sticky binder until it all holds together.
4. Press the mixture into cookie cutters on wax paper. Use a straw to make a hole at the top and insert a loop of string or yarn at the top for hanging.
5. If using gelatin, refrigerate until firm. If using peanut butter or allergy safe option, allow to set at room temperature.
6. Hang the ornaments on tree branches, fences or garden stakes.

Activity extension: Provide binoculars and encourage children to quietly watch from a window. Ask questions: "What kinds of birds came to our feeder? How do they eat?" After observing the birds, ask the children to draw or paint their favourite birds they saw using lots of different colours.



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