



Bird Feeder Spring Social Distancing Activities

Consider social distancing before beginning the chosen activity. Gather items onto trays or place into bins so that each child can have their own materials. Mark out space on the table or floors so that children will have considerable distance to work, or head outside to complete this activity.



Pinecone Bird Feeder

Suitable for toddler and up, consider a different feeder or using sunflower seed butter, honey or lard if children with allergies are present/participating.

Materials needed: Pinecones, twine/string/yarn, nut butter/seed butter/lard/honey (choose one), Bird seed

Directions: attach twine to pinecone (can be done before giving to children depending on age), apply nut/seed butter, sprinkle with or roll in bird seed, hang up!

Blog: <https://www.freebiefindingmom.com/easy-fall-crafts-using-pine-cones/>
Video: <https://youtu.be/P9BFnTQR-L8>



Paper Tube Birdfeeders

Suitable for toddler and up

Materials: Paper tube such as a toilet paper or paper towel tube, nut butter/seed butter/lard/honey (choose one), bird seed, string optional

Directions: prepare supplies so that each child has items of their own in their own work space, have children coat the paper tube in nut butter/seed butter/lard/honey, then roll in the bird seed, hang in a tree or some place easily seen, thread tube with a string for hanging if needed.

Website: <https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2014/05/kid-made-bird-feeders.html>
Video: <https://youtu.be/YlprsMPvJak>



Cookie Cutter Bird Seed Feeder

Suitable for toddler and up (gelatin does contain animal byproducts, consider children who have special diets).

Materials needed: Bird seed, Gelatin, Boiling water, Straws cut into 2inch pieces, Twine/string, Cookie cutters or pancake molds

Directions: Have your trays for each child w/ cookie cutters, bird seed, straws, and string prepped and ready to go, have bowls or cups ready 1 for each child to divide gelatin into, follow package directions for gelatin (educator only handle boiling water), when cooled to handling temperature divide into each child's bowl, now they can mix in their bird seed (could also be a teacher step), children can add bird seed gelatin mixture to their cookie cutter packing it into the frame, stick straw piece into bird feeder to create a hole after feeder has set, let set in the fridge for at least 3 hours, gently remove cutter/mold and straw, string and hang!

Blog w/ video: <https://mamapapabubba.com/2012/11/14/cookie-cutter-bird-seed-feeders-a-toddler-friendly-method/>
Video: <https://youtu.be/A1-85wKBVRo>



Milk Jug or Carton Bird Feeder

Materials: Milk jug or carton, scissors or something to cut out openings, paints, markers, other items for decoration, twig/chop stick piece/old pencil, string, bird seed

Directions: for younger children cut out openings w/ older children you could get them started by puncturing a hole then have them cut openings, decorate milk container, let dry, puncture spot for a perch and add perch, puncture place to add string for hanging and add string, add birdseed, hang

Website for milk jug: <https://www.greatstems.com/2013/05/wildlife-projects-for-kids-milk-jug-bird-feeders.html>
Video for milk jug: <https://youtu.be/vviOQf5412c>
Website for carton w/ video: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/make-a-milk-carton-bird-feeder>

Consider hanging bird feeders in a place where children can easily observe them like in a tree or outside a window! (if possible, keep out of rain)

Kid friendly bird identification books: <https://www.audubon.org/news/six-kid-friendly-bird-guides>

