

Week 2 Activities

We're bringing back these retro animal activities. These are iconic DIYs that many people have made. Check out these classics and have some fun.

Activity 1 – Pine Cone Bird Feeder

This is a great activity for anyone of any age.

Version 1

Materials

Pinecone: Natural pinecones are the best, especially ones that have fallen to the ground during the fall. You can also buy pinecones online or at the dollar stores. Just make sure to get ones that haven't been painted or glittered or that are scented, as the chemicals can be harmful to birds.

String or Twine: Cut a piece about 8 to 10 inches long, but can be longer if needed in order to hang. Other good options are ribbon or yarn. Do not use very thin thread, such as floss, fishing line, etc., as birds might get tangled in it.

Peanut butter: Any brand or type can be used. You can also use lard, vegetable shortening, sunflower butter or other nut butters (but avoid sugar-free versions).

Birdseed: A mixed birdseed is great, but you can use any available. Birdseed can be found at almost any grocery store.

Instructions

1. Remove any dirt or debris from the pinecone by shaking, tapping, or brushing it gently.
2. Tie a piece of your string or twine to the top of your pinecone, two or three rows down.
3. Pour birdseed onto a plate or into a shallow dish.

4. Tie the ends of the string together to hang the pinecone from. Make sure to do this BEFORE adding peanut butter to the pinecone.
5. Spread peanut butter onto the pinecone. Use as little or as much as you like.
6. Once the pinecone is coated in peanut butter, roll it in the birdseed, pressing lightly to adhere the seed to the pinecone.
7. Go hang them somewhere outside. NOTE: Preferably somewhere in the shade as high heat can cause peanut butter to go rancid or grow soft or melt.

Source:

Mayntz, Melissa. (2019, November 19). "DIY pine cone bird feeder: Turn a pine cone into a bird feeder". *The Spruce*. Retrieved from <https://www.thespruce.com/pine-cone-bird-feeder-385750>

Version 2

This version is slightly different. Instead of using a pinecone, you can use an empty toilet paper roll.

Instructions

1. Clean any excess paper off the cardboard toilet paper roll.
2. Spread peanut butter all over the outside of the toilet paper roll. Use as little or as much as you like.
3. Roll it in the birdseed, pressing lightly to adhere the seed to the roll.
4. Cut string, twine, yarn, or ribbon into 12-24 inch lengths and thread through the roll.
5. Tie the two ends together.
6. Hang outside.

Activity 2 – Help Birds Build Nests

You can help birds build their nests nearby by setting out the right materials for them. Many of these you might have on hand.

Leave out any of these materials for birds to pick up. They are common items used by birds for their nests.

Materials

- Dead twigs
- Dried grass clippings (from lawns not chemically treated)
- Fiber, string, and yarn (cut into 1 to 2 inch pieces)
- Dog fur (can get after clipping or trimming your dog's fur)
- Shredded paper
- Horse hair
- Moss
- Dry plants
- Dry grass
- Bark
- Pine needles
- Dead twigs
- Leaves
- Mud

Materials Not to Use

- Metallic thread
- Tinsel
- Plastic strips
- Dryer lint
- Chemically treated hair or grass clippings
- Fishing line

Instructions

Leave the materials in different spots, such as tree crevices, in baskets (old green fruit baskets are awesome for this), brush piles, etc. Try placing materials near locations in your yard birds frequent.