

Family Newsletter



THIS MONTH'S THEME

Birds & Eggs

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to fly like a bird? Soar into this month's theme with your own set of wings, a beak and bird feet. Birds have migrated and returned to their nesting grounds by this time of year. Test out your birdwatching skills and follow bird tracks to find a rainbow of colors: bluebirds, red robins, yellow hummingbirds and white bald eagles. Transform your room into a nest of learning!

Discover science around the home!

Curiosity is a natural trait of all young children. They want to ask, guess, explore, search and discover. Science is based on exploration and the search for answers. As a family, you can foster science and build on your child's eagerness to learn and discover.

- **Create an environment of discovery.** Children learn best through exploration and discovery. Provide a variety of textures and experiences that use the 5 senses to promote deeper investigation.
- **Use everyday experiences to promote science.** One of the most obvious places science takes place in the home is in the kitchen. Involve your child in the cooking process to observe the changes that occur in foods (raw to cooked), what happens when ingredients are combined, or simply measuring and pouring.
- **Explore the nature outside.** Whether you live in the city or the country, you are surrounded by nature. Observe birds, squirrels, and other wildlife with your child. Guess what the food sources might be for the animals in your area. Plant flowers and watch the changes and long-term process of growing. (If you have no outdoor soil, try planting in a box or tub.)
- **Encourage wonder and information gathering.** Ask questions that begin with "I wonder...", "What if...", or "How can we find out..." to encourage further investigation.
- **Model the recording of information.** Encourage your child to write about or draw some of the subjects you choose to explore. Record what led you to investigate, what you did to find out more, and finally, what happened. Follow up with a discussion of what you may try next time to extend the science opportunities.



Look for the daily notes about your child's art projects!

Today I built a nest.

Birds find things like sticks, grass and leaves to make their nests. I was like a bird today and chose what materials I wanted to build my own nest. I used my construction skills and my own ideas to create a nest for a bird.



ASK ME: Who did you choose in your nest?

Today I made a peacock mask.

Peacocks have long colorful feathers that fan out. I created my own colorful feathers to put onto my peacock mask. When I wear my mask, I can pretend I'm a proud peacock and dance around the room.



ASK ME: What colors did you choose for your peacock mask? What else do you know about peacocks?

Topics your child will explore this month:

Birds & Eggs

In the Nest

- 1 Nest
- 2 Egg
- 3 Hatchling
- 4 Bird Food
- 5 Learning to Fly

Bird Parts

- 6 Head & Beak
- 7 Body
- 8 Wing
- 9 Feet & Claws
- 10 Tail

Exotic Birds

- 16 Ostrich
- 17 Penguin
- 18 Blue Crane
- 19 Peacock
- 20 Birdwatching

Tree Birds

- 11 Bluebird
- 12 Woodpecker
- 13 Eagle
- 14 Hummingbird
- 15 Chickadee



RECOMMENDED READS

Cuddle Up WITH A GOOD BOOK

The Best Nest
by P.D. Eastman

Backyard Birding for Kids
by Fran Lee

Fly Away Home
by Eve Bunting

Everything Bird
by Cherie Winner

Birds, Nests and Eggs
by Mel Boring

A Mother for Choco
by Keiko Kasza



Family Activities

For the Birds

Take a walk with your child and document the birds you see. Discuss where in your area the birds might live, what they might eat and where they might keep their eggs safe. Discuss the dangers birds might face and how you could help. Decide as a family what you would like to do for the birds. For example, you may build a bird house, grow flowers or simply pick up garbage to keep their area clean.



Little Hatchling

(Sing to the tune of "Frère Jacques")

Little egg, little egg,
(Make a fist.)

Open up, open up.
(Open hand.)

Time to be a hatchling,
(Move arms up and over head.)

Time to spread your little wings.
(Flap arms at side.)

Open up, open up.
(Raise arms up from sides.)

