



Forest school from home wk 4 Birds

We are looking at birds this week as next weekend (29 - 31st January) is the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. You can sign up [here](#) if you would like to take part and count the birds you spot in your garden for one hour over the weekend.

Nests

Can you go for a walk in the winter skeleton trees and see if you can spot any nests high up in the branches. It's easier to spot them when there are no leaves on the trees. If it is particularly large and flat you may have found a squirrel's drey.

What do you think a nest is made from? Can you gather some twigs and things and make a nest? Can you gather some big sticks and make a nest for you and you can pretend to be a bird. Or you can do it inside with blankets and cushions.

[Here](#) is a link which shows you the different types of birds and their different design to their nests.



Song

Everytime you go outside (or even just open the window) have a quiet time and listen to the bird song. Is it different at different times of the day? Can you try out different places to sit and listen? Can you identify what direction the song is coming from and more tricky can you actually spot the bird singing. I have always found identifying birds very difficult, especially from their song. I try and learn just one new one each season. Check out this great website to [help](#). Can you make your own bird call? Have you a xylophone or bells or even a stick gently playing on jam jars of water.

Spotting

There are so many beautiful birds we have in the UK and depending on where you look depends on what you might find. If you can get to the river you may spot water birds like oyster catchers, or in the woods you may spot a woodpecker. In your garden you may see pigeons, magpies, crows, blackbirds, robins, starlings, finches and tits. [Here](#) is a link to show you what the common garden birds look like.

You could try building a bird hide in your garden or in your house next to a window. You could try drawing what you spot or ticking it off on a spotters sheet or you may have some bird books to look through. At forest school we often use binoculars to help us see far away if you have some of those give them a go or you could make your own with toilet roll tubes. [Here](#) is a spotters sheet or on this website there are lots to choose from [Birds spotter sheets](#) [*suitable for home learning* | STEM](#)

Feeding

What do you think might attract more birds to your outside space? In the winter like many animals the birds might be struggling to find food. There are less berries, nuts and seeds



on the trees and bushes, the ground might be hard to get worms and insects to eat. So you might want to put out some bird seed or you may want to make a feeder. There are so many different designs you can find online but the one we do at forest school is pine cone or coconut feeders. You could use this [link](#).

Feathers

See if you can collect some when you are out and about. Look at the colours, feel how soft it is. My son used to call them tickle sticks, try tickling your arm or neck with one. Could you make some with paper and scissors like [this](#) or if you have access to some good waxy leaves you could cut these to look like feathers. Here is some more feather art [Feather Art in a Box – A Nature Drawing & Painting Activity for Kids](#) Can you use your feathers as a paint brush or as a quill? Can you work out which bird it came from? This may help [How to identify common feathers](#).

Collect some leaves and natural things and see if you can make a landart picture of a bird.



Get moving

How do different birds move and fly?

Can you strutt like a peacock? Flap like a pigeon? Rear up like a defensive swan? Stand on one leg like a flamingo? Turn your head like an owl? What other birds can you make impressions of?

I am going to share lots of the bird activities in Woody Woodpecker's daily walk challenges this week to try and encourage the whole school community to get involved in the RSPB Big Winter Bird Watch.

Take as much or as little as you want from these plans but do try and get outside everyday.
Have a good week.

Woody

