



Design & Technology
All ages

Nest building

- Materials and their properties



Learning through Landscapes

Overview

This creative activity explores how birds use different materials and locations to create their nests. Use this opportunity to consider these amazing structures – the importance of their design and construction, and the various sizes, shapes, and locations chosen.

Resources

- A range of natural materials, e.g. sticks, moss, feathers, mud, leaves, wool, and grass.

Activity

1. Whether built in a tree or on the ground, all nests have the same components:
 - Well camouflaged in case of predators.
 - Strong and sturdy to withstand the weather.
 - Soft inside to protect eggs and young.
2. Gather a range of natural materials to create your nest.
3. Look around your grounds and identify the best place to build your nest (make sure it is somewhere you can reach safely).
4. Use the materials you have gathered to create the nest structure. Think about the location, the shape, and the construction to ensure it can withstand the elements.
5. Once ready, make the inside of the nest a soft and safe place for eggs and young.

Suggested outcomes for learning and play

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas that other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach.

- To design and build a natural feature from loose materials
- To understand how animals behave to survive

Here are some ideas that other educators have used in conjunction with this activity to bridge the gap between the indoors and the outdoors for their pupils:

Subject	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Literacy and language	Non-chronological reports	Write a fact file about different bird species and their nests
Computing	Online research	Research different bird species, the types of nests they build and why
		Create a factsheet or leaflet about bird nests
Science	Materials	Discuss why some materials are more suitable
	Food chains	Explore predators and why nests need protection
	Biodiversity	Investigate how school grounds can be improved to support birds
Maths	Shape	Create nests of given shapes, sizes and dimensions

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: l.tl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training