

Bird Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

I. Virginia Science Foundation Block 1: Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Logic (pg. 25)

*The child will make observations, separate objects into groups based on similar attributes, develop questions based upon observations using the five senses.

II. Concepts To Teach:

1. Identify or label bird by pointing or verbalizing
2. Identify attributes of birds
 - 2 eyes
 - 2 legs
 - a beak/mouth
 - 2 feet /claws
 - wings/ not arms
 - feathers/not skin
 - most can fly
 - lays eggs
 - home is a nest
 - eats worms, seeds , grasses,
 - many different sizes and colors
 - can make sounds, sing and some birds can talk or say words

III. Props I use:

- I bring in my love bird "Sparky" for children to meet
- Have out my real birds nests for the children to look at and touch
- Fake birds and eggs (blue jay, cardinal, parrot, and small sparrow)
- Beanie birds : robin and parrot

III. Props I use continued;

- Craft feathers
- fake worms and bugs

IV. Books that can be read:

1. Are You My Mother? by P.E. Eastman
2. The Best Nest by P.E. Eastman
3. Feathers For Lunch by Lois Ehlert
4. Bird's Nests by Eileen Curran
5. Little Golden Book: Birds by Jane Werner Watson
6. A Golden Tell A Tale Book: My Little Book of Birds by Gina Ingoglia
7. My Book Of Birds (formally titled The Parrot Book) by Tibor Gergely
8. The Bird Book by Florence Sarah Winship
9. Nests, Nests, Nests by Susan Canizares and Mary Reid
10. Teacher Made Book: My Book About Birds by Teresa Williams

V. Activities:

1. **Bird Watcher's Club:** Things to do...

- Make binoculars with painted toilet paper rolls stapled together.
- Go outside and look for birds
- Listen for the bird calls or sounds
- Play a tape of bird sounds
- Gather items from ground that a bird might use to build its house/nest

2. **Building a nest**

- **Yarn Nests:** Use a paper bowl and put glue on the inside of it : line bowl with strips of brown yarn
- **Clay Nests:** Use crayola clay and nest building materials (grass, feathers , small twigs) and make a nest
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Place nesting materials in the room and let the "little" birdies find what they need to build a nest.
- **Shredded Wheat Nests:** Glue shredded wheat that has been crumpled up onto a paper nest, place a paper bird on nest
- **Nest in a tree:**
 - Save enough Pringles Chip or oatmeal box containers so each child has one.
 - Cover the container with brown or black construction paper
 - Cut a hole in the container
 - Fill the bottom of container with nesting materials , add a bird

V. Activities continued:

3. Nest Snatchers:

- Place nesting materials outside in a container and watch to see if birds come and "snatch" it

4. Bird's Eggs:

- **Clay Eggs** : Make eggs out of clay , let dry then paint
- **Paper Collage Eggs**: Have large cut outs of eggs and let children decorate with blue or (whatever color) of collage materials you have out

5. Birds:

- **Stencil Birds**: Use stencils and mix condensed milk with food color and paint. The birds with dry shiny
- **Birds have Feathers**: Color a paper bird or use a bird cut out of construction paper, glue on feathers or small pieces of torn tissue paper
- **Birds Fly**:
 - Construction paper background
 - Glue on real twigs or paper twigs
 - Add crumpled up tissue paper for Spring blooms on the trees
 - Add sticker birds to the picture
 - Add cotton ball clouds and
 - Yellow sun (print or sponge paint)
- **Birds Need to Eat**:
 - Sponge paint construction paper brown
 - glue on seeds, and worms: green yarn to paper
- **Backyard Feeders**:
 - Roll a pinecone in peanut butter and bird seed.
 - Place yarn around the pinecone
 - Hang it outside and watch the birds eat their treat
- **Birds Need Water to Drink**
 - Sponge paint puddles of water of blue : sponge paint the paper, then cut out in the shape of puddle
 - Cut out a puddle shape out of Reynolds wrap and glue it on to paper
 - Add a paper bird to splash in the water
- **Bird Bath**:
 - Hot glue a small paper plate to a large paper cup
 - Add a paper bird

V. Activities continued:

- **Book About Birds:** Preschool Mailbox , April/May 2006 issue and 1990 issue

VI .Center Play

- **Play dough eggs:** Make home made play dough. Color as you desire, and let children roll bird eggs
- **Sand or Water Table Play:** " Looking for Worms" or "Beaks, Beaks, Beaks"
 1. Look for fake fishing worms, pipe cleaners cut small and bent, yarn, bird seed
 2. Cover with Easter grass or shredded grass
 3. Use clothes pins to pick up worms
- **Math:**
 - Count the Birds' eggs
 - Sort the eggs by color and size
 - Count the toy birds
 - Place the birds in order from largest to smallest or reverse it : smallest to largest
 - Count craft feathers
 - Sort by color
 - Toucan Treats: Preschool Mailbox Apr/May 2006
 - ◆ Program numbers on birds
 - ◆ Have a bucket of Fruit Loops cereal
 - ◆ Children count out that many cereal pieces to match the number
 - ◆ Don't forget to give the children some Cereal to munch on or they will eat the game pieces (: