

Nest-Building Activity

Kids can create a nest that is very similar to the nests that birds make by using some common nest-building materials. Begin this activity by gathering some or all of these items:

- Corrugated cardboard cut into 6"-diameter circles
- Twigs (3–6" long, the thickness of a pencil or thinner)
- Pine needles
- Hay or dried grass
- Feathers (from a craft store)
- Yarn (cut into 10" lengths)
- Cotton balls, shredded slightly
- White glue
- Mud (made by mixing potting soil and water to the thickness of pudding)
- A bowl



Step 1

Cover the outer 1" edge of the circle with white glue.



Step 2

Begin adhering twigs to the glue to create a circle.



Step 3

Drizzle glue on top of the circle of twigs and then add a different building material (perhaps hay or yarn or feathers) in another layer. (Explain to the kids that, in nature, many birds use their own spit, mud, or spider webs to stick their building materials together.)



Step 4

Continue to drizzle glue and add layers of building materials until the nest is the desired height.



Step 5

Allow the nest to dry overnight.

Step 6

Use mud to fill in the cracks.

Step 7

Glue feathers and cotton balls to the inside of the nest to make it a soft resting spot for eggs.

