

Homemade Bird Feeder

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Players Needed:

- At least 1 adult for supervision, direction and assistance during the course of craft project

Materials Needed:

- 1 Large Pinecone
- Peanut Butter (smooth)
- Mixed Bird Seed
- Spoon or Spatula
- Pan or bowl
- Yarn, Twine or Ribbon

Steps:

1. Have an adult tie the yarn/twine as best as they can around the top or bottom of cone. When tying, try and slide string/twine between pinecone bracts (pinecone leaves) approximately 2-3 bracts down (so as to have the string as secure as possible near the core of the pinecone). Tie this base knot tightly and then tie another knot with the leftover loose ends so as to create a looped hanger.
2. Have adult pour some of the birdseed into the bowl or pan.
3. Instruct child(ren) to take a spoon or spatula and begin spreading the peanut butter on their cone.
4. Child should spread ample amount of peanut butter on their cone to create a nice, tacky surface for the birdseed to stick to.
5. Have child roll peanut butter coated cone around in the poured birdseed (ensure that no sticky peanut butter is left exposed).
6. Once pinecone has been covered to each child's satisfaction, place pinecone in fridge and allow the peanut butter to set for 30 minutes.

7. While waiting for the peanut butter to set, go outside and allow child to pick a location for their bird feeder. A tree branch or other location where the pine cone can hang freely will be suitable. You can discuss the merits of different locations.
8. Once the 30 minutes is up, take your pinecone outside and hang it in your preselected location.
9. Spend quality time with child watching birds snack on the new feeder and try to help child identify which bird species have come to snack (by taking notes on paper or by memory) so adult and child can later read details about the bird from their local library and reference materials.

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