

Birds of Prey Outdoor Activity

Bird Beak Challenge

There are many species of birds, and each bird is adapted to eat certain kinds of food. Birds of prey have large, sharp beaks that they can use to tear their food into pieces. Their beaks are also strong in order for them to tear through bones. Birds like finches have short, thick beaks that are used to crack seeds. Robins have longer beaks which they use to grab worms. Hummingbirds have long skinny beaks that help them get the nectar at the bottom of flowers.

In this activity, you will see how some tools are better than others for collecting seeds, just like how some beaks are better suited for seeds than others!

Materials:

- Beaks – clothespins, spoons, fingers, chopsticks
- Food – dry beans, beads, anything small to represent seeds
- Nest – cup, plate, bowl, bag, etc.

Directions:

- Spread your food across your yard
- Give each player a type of beak. Everyone can have the same beak, or each person can try something different!
- Each player should have a nest somewhere outside the area where all the food is.
- All players must stand by their nest. On the count of three, all players race to the food and collect as much as they can before time runs out.
- Players must only touch the food with their beaks, nothing else!
- As players collect food, they must return that food to their nests.
- The player with the most food in their nest wins!
- Repeat using different beaks. Compare and see which beaks work better. Think about why those beaks are better – what makes them best suited for picking up the food?