

## Songbird Outdoor Activity

### Bird Feeders!

In the winter, some birds migrate to find warm places with plenty of food. But there are some birds who stick around and try to find food. We can help those birds by putting out feeders in the winter and early spring! We don't need fancy store bought bird feeders, we have all the materials we need in our own homes.

In this activity, you will use whatever materials you have in your house to make a bird feeder! Below are 3 different ways to make feeders using a variety of materials.

#### THE CLASSIC

Materials:

- Base – pinecone, ice cream cone, bread, half of a bagel, cardboard tube
- Sticky coating - peanut butter, sun butter, Crisco
- Seeds – any kinds of bird seed will do!
- Yarn

Directions:

- Tie your yarn onto your base in order to hang the feeder up when complete
- Spread a thin layer of your sticky coating onto your base
- Roll in bird seed until the sticky coating is completely covered; shake off excess seed
- Hang up outside in a tree or near a window and wait for your new bird friends to arrive!

#### THE STRING

Materials:

- Base - pipe cleaners, florists wire, needle and string
- Fruit – grapes, strawberries, bananas, kiwi, raisins, etc.
- Grains – cheerios, popcorn, bread, etc.
- Seeds

Directions:

- Cut up fruit into small chunks, a great way to use fruit past its prime!
- Thread fruit, grains, and seeds onto your base. This is an excellent way for young children to practice fine motor skills!
- Hang up outside in a tree or near a window and wait for your new bird friends to arrive!

## THE UPCYCLED

### Materials:

- Base – milk or juice carton, clean aluminum tins, old plastic containers, etc.
- Seeds
- Yarn

### Directions:

- Modify your base to allow birds to access the food. If you're using an old milk jug, cut out the base. Remove any wrapping that may be on the base.
- Tie yarn to your base so that it can hang up and not spill the seed. Alternatively, make a feeder that doesn't need to be hung up!
- Decorate! Paint or color the outside of your bird feeder.
- Fill with seed and place outside.
- Wait for your new friends to arrive!