

## Woodsy Owl's Curiosity Club- Birds

**Safety Disclaimer:** This program is designed for children WITH their parent or caretaker. Please review this program and designate a safe place for you and your child to participate. Woodsy Owl's Curiosity Club usually takes place at the Cradle of Forestry in America during the summer, weekly from 10:30am to 12pm. Since the Corona Virus we are designing new ways for children to learn about nature and stay safe. For 2020 we are offering these Digital Woodsy Owl programs for adults to be able to lead at home. Please enjoy and we hope to see you and your child for our 2021 programs at the Cradle.

### About Woodsy Owl:

Caring, friendly, and wise, Woodsy Owl is a whimsical fellow and he's got his heart set on motivating kids to form healthy, lasting relationships with nature. As Woodsy flies across our land, he encourages youngsters to marvel at and explore the natural world, even in the city. His motto "Lend a Hand - Care for the Land!" encourages everyone to make a positive difference in their world. Woodsy Owl was created by the US Forest Service and these educational programs are brought to you by forest service partners- FIND Outdoors.

### Story Time:

Fine Feathered Friends by Trish Rabe (from the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library)

Watch video of Stephanie reading this book here: <https://youtu.be/TCl3dA1KnwQ>

### Music and Movement:

If I were a bird

I would learn to fly                    (pretend to fly)

Twisting and turning

All over the sky                    (move arms up and down)

Up to the clouds, down to the ground.

Come pretend and fly with me

Back to our nest in the maple tree.    (pretend to return to nest and sit)

### Game: Rescue the Egg!

#### Materials:

- An open space (preferably outside where your children can run)
- Large paper bag like a grocery bag or several small paper lunch bags
- Plastic eggs



Prepare: With your child, make a bird's nest out of the paper bag. Scatter the eggs all over your playing area.

How to play: Explain to your child that they will be pretending to be a bird. Ask them how birds move, have them demonstrate. They can hop and fly. Now explain that their eggs have been scattered and they must collect all of their eggs and bring them safely back to the nest. If you want to add complexity, you can have multiple nests and your child must color sort the eggs in different nests. Then have them count out the eggs to make sure they collected them all.

### Video: Live Bird Cams

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has several live bird cams you can check out to inspire your nest building and further your child's learning about birds. Visit their website here: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/>

## Craft: Bird's nests

### Materials:

- Paper Plate
- Scissors
- Natural materials found outside – e.g. twigs, leaves, grass, moss etc.
- String/Yarn

Start the hands on part of this project by going outside and collecting a range of natural materials that your children thinks they might be able to use to make a birds nest such as twigs, moss, feathers, grass etc. You might find bits of yarn or sting that could be used too, if not you can always add these in from your craft supplies.

Outside with a tarp or back inside lay your materials out and give your child a paper plate and a pair of scissors they can use if they want to. There's no right or wrong way to go about building a birds nest and kids of all ages can experiment with using the materials in different ways to create the most functional nest they can.

Here's some of the questions you can ask to give a focus and challenge. (Older children may be able to set their own challenges.):

- How strong can you make a birds nest?
- Will your birds nest stay together in a wind? (You can test it with a hairdryer.)
- How deep does your nest need to be to keep the eggs safe?
- Would your birds nest be comfortable?
- What happens if it rains?
- Will water collect inside or drain away? (You can test it with a watering can.)