BIRD BATH

Objective:

To engage children in creating a bird bath, fostering an appreciation for nature and encouraging them to observe and care for local wildlife.

Materials:

- Shallow, recycled bowl or dish
- Small rocks or pebbles for birds to perch on
- Rainwater if possibel (collected in a bucket or container)
- Natural items like leaves, twigs, or flowers for decoration

Questions to Ask:

- "Why do you think birds need water?"
- "How do you think the birds will use the rocks in the bird bath?"
- "What do you think will happen if we use rainwater instead of tap water?"
- "What kinds of birds do you think might visit our bird bath?"
- "How can we make the bird bath more inviting for birds?"
- "Why is it important to use natural materials and rainwater?"
- "How do you feel knowing you're helping the birds?"
- "What other things can we do to help nature and animals?"

Activity:

Children will arrange the rocks, pour collected rainwater into the dish, and decorate it with natural items like leaves and twigs. The bird bath will be placed in a quiet outdoor spot, where children can observe birds that visit. Throughout the activity, they will learn how using rainwater supports wildlife and conserves resources, while discussing how their actions help the environment. This activity encourages kindness toward animals and highlights the importance of sustainable practices.

WATERPROOF FEATHERS

Objective:

To explore how feathers help birds stay dry and float.

Materials:

- Feathers (collected ethically or purchased)
- Bowls of water
- Towels for drying
- Magnifying glasses (optional for closer observation)

Questions to Ask:

- "What do you notice when you dip the feather in water?"
- "Why do you think the water rolls off the feather?"
- "How do you think this helps birds when they are in the rain or swimming?"
- "What would happen if birds didn't have waterproof feathers?"
- "How do you think feathers help birds stay warm and dry?"

Activity:

Begin by letting children observe dry feathers. Next, have them dip feathers into a bowl of water and gently shake them. Observe how water rolls off or beads on the feathers, demonstrating the natural waterproofing. Afterward, let the feathers dry and discuss how birds use this adaptation to stay dry and buoyant. You can extend the conversation by discussing how birds groom their feathers to keep them waterproof and how this helps them in their daily lives.

FEATHER PAINTING

Objective:

To explore texture and color mixing using feathers as painting tools.

Materials:

- Feathers (various types)
- Non-toxic paints in different colors
- Recycled paper or canvas
- Bowls or trays for paint

Questions to Ask:

- "How does the texture of the feather change the way the paint looks on the paper?"
- "What happens when you mix two different colors of paint using the feather?"
- "How does the feather's shape and size affect the patterns you make?"
- "What do you like most about using feathers to paint?"
- "Can you describe how your painting looks different from one made with a regular brush?"
- "How does stamping with the feather change the way the paint looks on the paper?"
- "What do you notice when you roll the feather through the paint and onto the paper?"
- "How does waving the feather in the air create different effects on your artwork?"
- "What happens when you mix colors using different feather techniques?"
- "How does the texture of the feather influence the patterns you create?"

Activity:

Children will dip feathers into various colors of paint and use them to create artwork on paper. Encourage them to experiment with different techniques such as stamping, rolling, and waving the feathers in the air to mimic flying, which creates unique patterns and paint splatters. Discuss how each technique affects the texture and blending of colors in their artwork, and how the feather's texture and movement add to the artistic process.

BIRD NEST KITS

Objective:

To engage children in creating bird-friendly environments by providing materials for birds to build their nests.

Materials:

- Straws
- Twigs
- Feathers (natural and ethically collected)
- Pine needles
- Cotton balls or wool scraps (natural and safe)
- Small baskets or mesh bags to hold the materials
- Optional: Birdwatching guide or binoculars

Questions to Ask:

- "What materials do you think birds will use from our nest building kits?"
- "How do you think these materials help birds build their nests?"
- "Why is it important for birds to have a safe and comfortable place to build their nests?"
- "What other things might birds need to make their nests?"
- "How can we make sure that the materials we use are safe for the birds?"

Activity:

Invite children to bring natural materials from home, such as twigs, feathers, and small bits of yarn or fabric scraps. Combine these with other natural materials like straw and pine needles to create bird nest building kits. Place the kits outside in a safe area for birds to use. Discuss with the children how each item can help birds build their nests and observe any nests that may be constructed. Encourage children to share what they brought and discuss how their contributions support local wildlife.