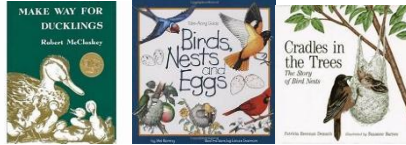


Unit 5**Week 3****Outdoor Learning Opportunities:****Making Bird Nests**
Standards:
PHD.FM.PS.5
S.LS.PS.1,4,7
CA.VA.PS.1
**Materials:**

- Twigs
- Clay
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- Feathers
- Scraps of materials
- Dryer lint
- Glue and/or mud
- Book – *Cradles in the Trees: The Story of bird Nests* by Patricia Brennan Demuth

Vocabulary:

- Nest
- Bird
- Feathers

Read the book, *Cradles in the Trees* as an introduction to bird nests. Take children outside to look for bird nests. They can discover all the different places that birds make nests. Some are in holes in the trees (chickadees). Some are woven and hang from branches (Baltimore Oriole), some are on the ground (Woodcock), some are on barn rafters (barn swallows), and still others are in trees. Birds use materials that are nearby.

Provide materials for the children to use to create a nest. They can use natural and found materials such as twigs, feathers, grasses, scraps of material, yarn, ribbon, dryer lint, etc. They can use glue, mud, or clay to keep the materials together. They can work alone or with others to create the nest. After they complete their nest, they can reflect on the process.

Extension: Have the children make nest bags by filling a small net bag with yarn, dryer lint, ribbon, and other materials a bird might use in their nest. Hang the bag outside a window and watch the birds take out the materials. Look for nests in the area that might include some of the items from the net bag.

Guiding Questions:

- How do birds make their nests, when they don't have hands?

- How difficult would it be to use a beak to build a nest?
- Why do different birds use different materials? Why do some birds nest in trees while others are on the ground?
- How do birds keep their nests together?