

Unit 1: Our Community

WEEK 2 Day 1

An extension to Drama, Pretending Home & School 2

Outdoor Nature Based Learning: Bird Watching

From their “home,” children pretend to watch birds outside.

Big Ideas	Individuals or citizens come together to work, live, learn, and relate to each other in communities. Communities interact with and are affected by their environments.
Guiding Questions	Who and what makes a community? What does it mean to be a member of a community?
Materials and Preparation	As part of the home dramatization area, set up a bird watching area. If possible, place the area near a window. • child binoculars (or toilet paper tube binoculars made by the children) • space near a window with bird feeders outside (children can make and fill the feeders) • photos/lists of local birds seen near the school yard - o Bird Advisors Website with free printable bird checklist, photos of common Maine backyard birds and audio recordings of their calls - o Bird Watching Central with a list of Maine birds and pictures - o bird field guide (Audubon First Guides include excellent photos) • Merlin ID app - free downloadable app that helps to identify birds by sound and with photos
Intro to Centers	Take children outside to practice how to look for birds in the school yard. Listen together for the birds, as they often are found by listening first. Birds

	can also be seen from Sit Spots. Keep videos and a list of the birds that are found.
During Centers	Children read and reference the bird resources. Children use the binoculars to look outside for birds.
Facilitation	• What birds did you hope to see out the window? • What do you see? • Tell me about how they move. • How can we make this bird watching area better? • What kind of food should we feed the birds?
Extensions	Children create pinecone bird feeders with toilet paper rolls, yarn, stapler, pinecones, peanut butter or Crisco, cornmeal, bird seed, and decorating materials (markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc.). Children spread peanut butter or Crisco mixed with cornmeal on a pinecone. Then the pinecone can be rolled in bird seed and a piece of yarn tied to the pinecone to hang it up. • Homemade Bird Feeders to Make with Kids

Notes
