

## Suggested activity location

Outdoors - gathering natural items

Indoors - creating the sock station

## Activity Time

Outdoors: 30 minutes

Indoors: 30 minutes

## You will need

Socks - children can bring in their odd, clean socks.

String cut into approximately 4 cm lengths (3 or 4 per child)

Paper bag to collect items

Not essential: straw



## Instructions

Please refer to the following pages for a full list of instructions.

## Curriculum links

### The Arts

- collect, examine and select resource material to use in the development of ideas;
- develop their understanding of the visual elements of colour, tone, line, shape, form, space, texture and pattern to communicate their ideas;

### Personal Development and Mutual understanding

Mutual Understanding in the local and wider community

- playing an active and meaningful part in the life of the community and being concerned about the wider environment.

### The world around us - Interdependence

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- How living things rely on each other within the natural world;

#### - Place

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- Ways in which people, plants and animals depend on the features and materials in places and how they adapt to their environment;

## Introduction

Birds are extremely busy during the nest building season. They need to make sure they have somewhere safe and comfortable to bring up their young when they hatch from their egg.

The **ParkLife** project helps local people get outdoors and explore nature in Belfast's wonderful parks



**Belfast**  
City Council



## Bird Sock Stations Activity

Some birds, such as the wood pigeon simply gather a mass of twigs and stick them haphazardly in an attempt to make a nest.

Other birds, such as the wrens put in a lot of effort. It is these birds that will benefit greatly from this project. For more information on the wren, please refer to the 'Mr Wren and his house building skills' story.

### Instructions for children:

1. Go for a walk around your park and collect as much of these following items as possible:
  - Very small twigs
  - Moss
  - Soft feathers
  - Grass
2. Once back indoors sort out all your items into their individual piles
3. Make sure you have 4 pieces of string
4. Sort your items into piles. If you have 3 different types of items, your sock will be divided into 3 parts. If you have 4, your sock will be divided into 4 parts.
5. Add your first natural item. Once you have filled what will be the first section tie a piece of string around it, making the first compartment.
6. Add in the second natural item and once again, tie sting around the sock once you have added in all that is required. You will now have two compartments.
7. Continue to do this making three or four compartments in total.
8. Once you have sealed off your final compartment, tie string around the top of the sock and form it into a loop that can be hung around tree branches. You may need some adult help for this part.

## Bird Sock Stations Activity

- Using scissors, carefully snip small holes in each of the compartments.
- Pull out a small bit of each of the natural items. This will allow the passing birds to see what is inside.

Once all these steps have been completed, you are ready to go out and hang your bird sock station onto a tree. Try to place it in an area where you hear a lot of bird song. The birds may take a few days to become aware of the treasure you have left them. They will be cautious at first but if you place bird food close by this will help them overcome their fears more quickly.

The **ParkLife** project helps local people get outdoors and explore nature in Belfast's wonderful parks



**Belfast**  
City Council

