

Nest Building

Nest building is a fun challenge



Age: 6+

Time: 1 hour

Nest building—for birds and you—requires time and patience. If your nest doesn't turn out the way you expect, relax, and try again. Gather materials for nest building in the Childrens' Discovery Forest.

Here's How:

- 1. Gather leaves, twigs, bark, moss, feathers, grass, bits of string, etc.**
- 2. Experiment!** There is no one way to build a nest. **Think about how to connect materials** so that they don't blow away in the wind and so the birds will be comfortable, and their eggs won't fall out.
- 3. Try this: Gather an armful of long, very thin, flexible twigs and grasses.**
- 4. Match the ends of the bundle of twigs.**
 - Holding the ends of the bundle of twigs, **curl the twigs around to make a small circle**, then **wrap it around again above the first circle to give some depth** to the nest.
 - When you have made the nest shape, **wrap the rest of the bundle of twigs down into the center of the circle and bring it up on the outside of the circle.**
 - **Continue wrapping the bundle of twigs around the nest**, down into the center of the circle and up on the outside of the circle.
 - **Tuck the ends into the twigs of the circle** as you wrap down and up.
 - **Weave more grasses and twigs into the nest to secure it.**
- 5. Weave sticks and grass into the gaps and crisscross the bottom.**

➤ You could line the nest with moss.



The Back Story:

Birds are very busy in the spring building their nests at Lake Wilderness Arboretum. It is interesting to watch them gather natural materials and construct sturdy nests. There are many kinds of nests and many ways to build them. When you watch the birds' activity, you will get some ideas about how to build a nest of your own.