

Audubon Center & Sanctuary

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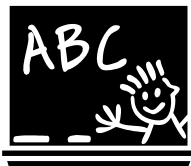
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Birdie Cradles: Curriculum Integration Guide

Warm up Their Brains Before We Come



- **Pre-visit Activity:** Ask students to draw a bird's nest on scrap paper.
- Encourage children to share stories of bird nests they have observed or bring in a nest they have at home.

Activities and Ideas for Extending the Learning

- Study a particular bird, such as a bald eagle. Try to build a life-size replica of its nest.
- Put nest boxes out around your schoolyard. Monitor the birds that use them. Call Audubon for nestbox plans to build your own. What a great way to involve parents!
- Go on a nest walk around your schoolyard. Winter is a good time to find nests in trees and shrubs because the leaves are gone and birds aren't using them anymore.
- In spring, watch for birds, such as crows, carrying nest materials in their beaks as they fly.
- Come to Audubon!

Books for Students

- *About Birds: A Guide for Children*, 1991, Cathryn Sill, 1-56145-028-6. Available at the Prendergast Library. Beautiful paintings of mostly local birds with simple text on each page.
- *Birds, Nests and Eggs*, 1996, Mel Boring, 1-55971-480-8. Simply beautiful drawing with authentic details. Also includes tips for observing birds. This book, and others on birds, are available in the Children's Library at the Nature Center.

Other Resources

- *A Field Guide to Birds' Nests*, Hal H. Harrison (a Peterson Field Guide)
- There are many organizations that try to help cavity-nesting birds by providing nest boxes. One is The Birdhouse Network of Cornell Lab of Ornithology: <http://birdsource.cornell.edu>
- *Secrets of the Nest*, Joan Dunning. 1994. ISBN: 0395-62035-X. This book is written for adults, but has great stories to read out loud to kids. It also has great illustrations.

NYS Standard 4 - The Living Environment

Major Understanding: 5.2f Some animal behaviors are influenced by environmental conditions. These behaviors may include: nest building, hibernating, hunting, migrating, and communicating.

PA Biology Standard

3.3.4 A.1 Identify life processes of living things (e.g., growth, digestion, react to environment).

Objective of the Program

The objective of this program is to help children understand that birds use nests to raise their young. They do not live in nests for their entire lives. Birds use a variety of nesting materials and a variety of nesting locations.

