

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Birdwatching with children is a great outdoor experience. Children will love seeing the variety of birds in their early learning environment all while exploring the natural world around them. Building from children's natural curiosity will help extend these learning experiences and perhaps even create a lifelong hobby for the children beyond the early years.



Provocation for Learning Kits for Borrowing



Exploring Birds and Their Habitats

Check out this excellent resource for introducing birds and their habitats in your early learning environment. Feathers, burlap, books, birds, birdhouses and more! This resource offers everything you need to spark children's interest in birds.



Blue Bird Birdcage

This provocation for learning kit is a fantastic addition to any early learning environment. Children will enjoy having a bluebird visit their classroom and through their play, they will begin to learn how to care for animals, which will support them in developing empathy.



ECCDC Bird Puppets

Our lending library also offers a number of bird puppets that can be used to further support children's interest in birds.

These bird puppets will be available soon for lending as COVID-19 restrictions lessen.



Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Benefits of Birdwatching with Children



Connecting to the Natural World

Fostering a relationship with nature is essential in the early years, and bird watching is an excellent opportunity to instill this interest. Watching birds in their natural habitats will support children's interest in the natural world and their development of empathy as they begin the fundamentals of caring for wildlife.

Mindful Moments

Taking a moment to be still and watch the fluttering habits of birds will let children rest their minds and bodies. An important skill needed throughout their lives.

Caring for the Environment

Educating children about the importance of sustainability and responsibility for our natural world can begin with birdwatching in the early years. Watching birds in their natural habitats can provoke conversations about caring for wildlife, sustainability, and the importance of respecting the earth.



Resources for Purchasing on E-Store



Check out this wonderful resource in our e-store the **'Provocation Toolkit'**. Filled with numerous open-ended materials, this resource is surefire way to create invitations to play. Listed below are a few ideas for using this resource to support children's interest in birdwatching.

- The picture frame could be used to hold images of different birds for the children to look at.
- The burlap, along with other loose parts such as twigs and string, could be used to make a bird's nest.
- The magnifying glass can be used to examine the outdoor environment further while bird watching.

Opportunities for learning through play are endless with this resource!



How to Make a Pinecone Bird Feeder

What better way to attract birds for birdwatching than making your own bird feeder with the children? Listed here are the materials needed to make a pinecone bird feeder.

- Large open pinecones
- Sunflower butter (Free of peanuts and tree nuts making it allergen safe)
- Butterknife
- Bowl
- Twine
- Birdseed (Look out for artificial ingredients in bird food as it can be harmful to bird's health)



Ask the children to cover the pinecone with sunflower butter so they can practice their fine motor skills as they spread sunflower butter over the pinecone with a butter knife. Next, have a bowl set out with birdseed for the children to roll their pinecones in. After that is finished, lay the pinecones out to dry. Then tie twine on the top of the pinecone. Lastly, place them outside and marvel at the flock of birds visiting your early learning space.

This is an excellent way to keep children involved in the entire process of birdwatching from start to finish, extending the learning experience.



Presents ...

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Bird Watching Places in the Niagara Region



ST. CATHARINES

Glenridge Quarry

Right across the road from the ECCDC is this lovely nature trail perfect for birdwatching along the water.

1860 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines, ON L2T 4C2

THOROLD

Mel Swart Lake Gibson Conservation Park

Enjoy the scenic views of Lake Gibson with numerous migrating species of birds.

Decew Rd, Thorold ON. L0S 1A0

ST. CATHARINES

Malcolmson Eco Park

An eco-friendly park with numerous birds to see including the Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Wood Duck, and more!

325 Lakeshore Rd, St. Catharines, ON L2M 7Z3

PORT COLBORNE

Mud Lake Conservation Area

A 3.4-kilometre looped trail that features beautiful wildflowers and is excellent for birdwatching from April to September.

3031 Elm St, Port Colborne, ON L3B 5K7



Bird Songs

Click [here](#) to bring the lovely singing sounds of woodland birds to your early learning environment.



Common Birds in the Niagara Region



Listen to the **Eastern Bluebird** [here](#).



Listen to the **Tundra Swan** [here](#).



Presents ...

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



Useful Links for Birdwatching with Children

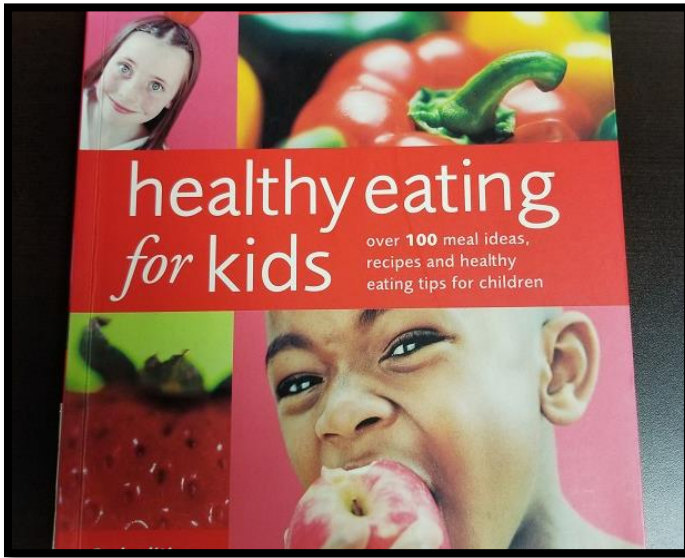


The ECCDC would like to thank Winona Drouin, Project Technician & Project Management Consultant of the Haldimand Stewardship Council for the links below.

- [Click here to visit Fallsview Indoor Waterpark: Where to Take Your Kids Bird Watching in Niagara.](#)
- [Click here to visit Nature Canada: Resources for Children.](#)
- [Click here to visit Eco Parent: Create a Backyard Bird-Watching Kit for Kids.](#)
- [Click here to visit Nature Conservancy Canada: Learning resources for kids.](#)

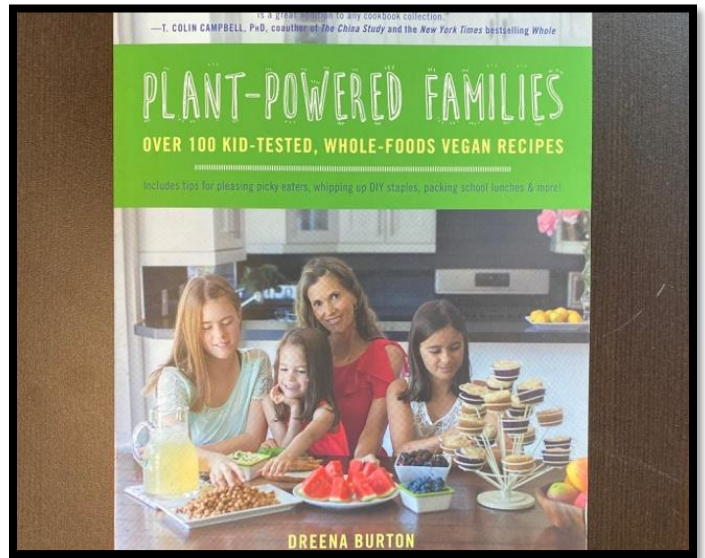


Resources for Lending that Get you in the Mood for Food!



Healthy Eating for Kids- Over 100 Meal Ideas, Recipes and Healthy Eating Tips for Children

Check out this excellent resource for recipes, healthy eating tips and more! Get children interested in healthy food with all of the fun food offered in this book.



Plant Powered Families - Over 100 Kid-Tested, Whole-Foods Vegan Recipes

Over 100 delicious plant-based recipes for you to explore with children!

