



Stark County Board of DD Early Intervention Newsletter

May 2021

Virtual Playgroup

Fly into spring every Tuesday this month
@ 10AM for a different bird
activity each week!



May 4th
Story-time with Chris & Paula
Hooray for Birds

Join us for an action packed story-time and worm catching fun (pretend of course! 😊) For the activity you will need something to pick the worms up with (tweezers, clothespins, fingers, etc.), different colored worms (pipe cleaners, yarn, paper shreds, etc.) and something to sort on/into (bowls, colored squares, etc.).



May 11th
Art with Miss Paula
Bird Feeders



Today we will be making bird feeders! You will need a toilet paper roll or pine cone, peanut butter, birdseed, and a piece of string. See page 3 for ideas of items you would have in your home to use instead of birdseed and for directions to make pretend binoculars out of 2 toilet paper tubes glued together.

May 18th
Sensory Play with Miss Chris
Bird's Nest Sensory Bin

What does a bird need to build a nest? Pretty much anything- twigs, paper, sticks, dried grass, mud, trash, etc. For this activity help your child gather items they think a bird would use to build a nest. You will also want to have something they can use to form their nest in.



May 25th
Kids in the Kitchen
Bird Face Toast



You only need a few ingredients to make and enjoy these tasty bird snacks. Choose your base (bread, graham cracker, etc), choose your spread (peanut butter, Nutella, cream cheese, etc.) then choose your fruits. Be creative and feel free to change the ingredients to items your child will eat and that you have on hand at home.

EXCITING NEWS!!!

We are excited to announce that we are working on plans for a few outdoor playgroups in addition to our virtual playgroups, beginning this summer in June. Socialization is such an important part of a child's development and providing opportunities for small children to socialize with their peer is even more important. The virtual playgroups have been a great way to get together with other families and children and socialize during the pandemic. We are working with our supervisor/nursing director to safely plan activities so we can begin to socialize and play together again outdoors. Playgroups will follow all agency, local, state and government guidelines for safety. Watch your email for more information later this month and be sure to check out next month's newsletter to see what we have planned.



Amelia had so much fun making the textured bunny craft during the April 27th virtual playgroup that she continued to work on making more bunnies even after playgroup had ended. Her grandma sent us this picture of her still working on them about a half hour later.

May Family Fun!!

Wiggly Worms Fun!!

You will need-

- * colored pipe cleaners or yarn
- * clothespins or tweezers
- * bowls for sorting or colored bowls/papers to match colors
- * shredded paper



Feeding baby birds is hard work especially when the worms are wiggling. Wiggly worms can be hard to hang on to! Strengthen your child's fine motor skills by picking up and sorting/matching colored worms. This activity can be played with several different ways depending on your child's age. Worms can be made of pipe cleaners or yarn cut into 2-3 inch pieces. Younger children can use their fingers to pick up the worms and place them in a container. Older toddlers and preschool children can try to pick them up using clothespins or tweezers. Additionally, if different colors of pipe cleaners or yarn are used your child can sort or match the colors. If you want to make it a little more challenging try using shredded paper in a container and mixing the worms into the shreds before picking them up.

SILLY BIRD PUZZLES



Print the bird puzzles at the end of the newsletter to practice matching or make silly birds with. There is a colored copy or a black and white one that can be printed and colored.

Bird's Nest Building Sensory Bin



Go on a nature walk and look for places birds might build a nest like trees, bushes, on light poles, etc. While you are looking for nests talk about how birds build their nests and gather items to use for this activity like grass, flowers and stems, sticks, and leaves.

At home you can gather craft items such as paper shreds, raffia, craft moss, cotton balls, twine, yarn, ribbon or fabric scraps to add to the bin too.



To set-up the activity, place the items you chose on a tray or in a small container.

You can just let your child explore and play in the materials or encourage them to build a nest. You may want to add a small bowl to place their nesting items in or create a bowl using pipe cleaners or craft foam to weave or push items into. For added fun you can add little birds and eggs to put in the nest when they are done building it.

Bird Face Toast

Your child will love making and eating these cute bird snacks. You only need a few ingredients to make and enjoy these tasty bird snacks. You are not limited to just making bird faces try bears, cats, cows, monkeys, bunnies, fish, etc.

1. Choose your base- bread, graham cracker, or something similar
2. Choose your spread- peanut butter, Nutella, cream cheese, or other spread
3. Choose your fruits- strawberries, bananas, blueberries, raisins, etc.



Decide on the animal face you want to create.

Then, decide on the ingredients you want to use, you can add other toppings like chocolate chips, nuts, etc.—be creative! Cut the fruit into appropriate shapes and sizes for the animal face you chose to create. Help your child to use a butter knife to put the spread on, then let them add the fruit to create their animal face snack.

More May Family Fun with Birds!!



Paint Like A Bird

You will need a few pieces of paper, paint, feathers and pipe cleaners. Twist the pipe cleaners to resemble bird's feet and dip them into paint then stamp them on the paper to make bird tracks or use the feathers to paint with instead of a paintbrush.

Backyard Bird Feeders

Supplies needed:

Peanut butter
Birdseed
Toilet paper tube or pinecone
Butter knife
Plate



Place your pinecone or toilet paper tube on a plate. Allow (help your child, if needed) to use the butter knife to spread the peanut butter completely covering the tube or cone.

Pour birdseed onto the plate and let your child roll their tube or cone in the seed until no more will stick to it.

Tie a string around the pinecone or poke a hole in the toilet paper tube to attach a string.

Hang the bird feeder where your child can watch the birds eat it. Make the pretend binoculars shown above watch the birds to eat it.



Bird Watching Binoculars

Help your child make pretend binoculars to watch the birds with.

You will need:

2 toilet paper rolls

Glue & scissors

String

Construction paper, markers, and stickers to decorate with.



Cut pieces of construction paper to fit the toilet paper tubes. Wrap the paper around each tube and glue it on. Let your child decorate the tubes with markers and/or stickers. Glue the 2 tubes together and allow them to dry. Punch holes on the outside of each tube and attach the string. If you want you could cover the ends with colored cellophane for more fun. It's time to start watching for birds!!

What else can I feed the birds?

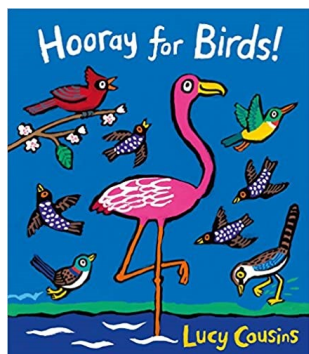
Birdseed, suet, and nectar aren't the only things you can feed the birds. Many kitchen scraps, if used wisely and sparingly, can be used to attract and feed backyard birds.

Birdseed gets expensive and a great way to save money and feed the birds is by using food that might otherwise be thrown away. Do not use scraps as a substitute for birdseed though! Instead add scraps to the birdseed. Less food is wasted and the birds enjoy a variety of treats that can keep them coming back. You might even entice a new bird species to your backyard.

Here are some ideas for scraps to use that I gathered from websites about feeding birds kitchen scraps:

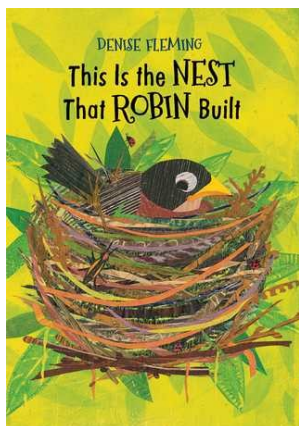
- stale or dry bread, donuts, cakes, cookies, and crackers broken into small pieces
- scrap vegetables
- fruits, such as old berries, raisins, grapes, bananas, oranges, grapefruits
- seeds of watermelons, honeydew melons, pumpkins, and cantaloupes
- stale or leftover cereal and oats
- peanuts nuts, almonds, pecans, and walnuts
- crushed eggshells (bake clean shells for 15 minutes at 250 degrees, and crush)

BOOKS TO READ IN MAY



From the rooster's "cock-a-doodle-doo" at dawn to the owl's nighttime "tuwit, tuwoo," the cheeps and tweets of many bright and beautiful avian friends will have children eager to join in as honorary fledglings.

A little green hummingbird is flying through a sunny garden, leaving a path for sharp eyes to follow. An artist is watching --and painting what he sees!



Robin is building a nest, and her friends are ready to help! The squirrel trims the twigs. The dog brings the string. The horse shares his straw. And then a surprise gatefold spread reveals how Robin knits them all together to make a safe and cozy home for her babies.

Woodpecker calls from a tree, "cuk-cuk-cuk." Starling sings, "whistle-ee-wee." But have you heard the nesting bird? Hear all the different bird calls and the quiet of a mama bird waiting for her eggs to hatch.

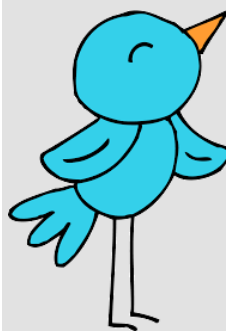


READ WITH YOUR CHILD DAILY!

May Songs and Fingerplays

Little bird, little bird, fly around,
Up to the sky, down to the ground.
Little bird, little bird, flap your wings.
Open your beak and sweetly sing.
Little bird, little bird, fly to your nest.
Now it is time to take a rest.

Sung To: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"



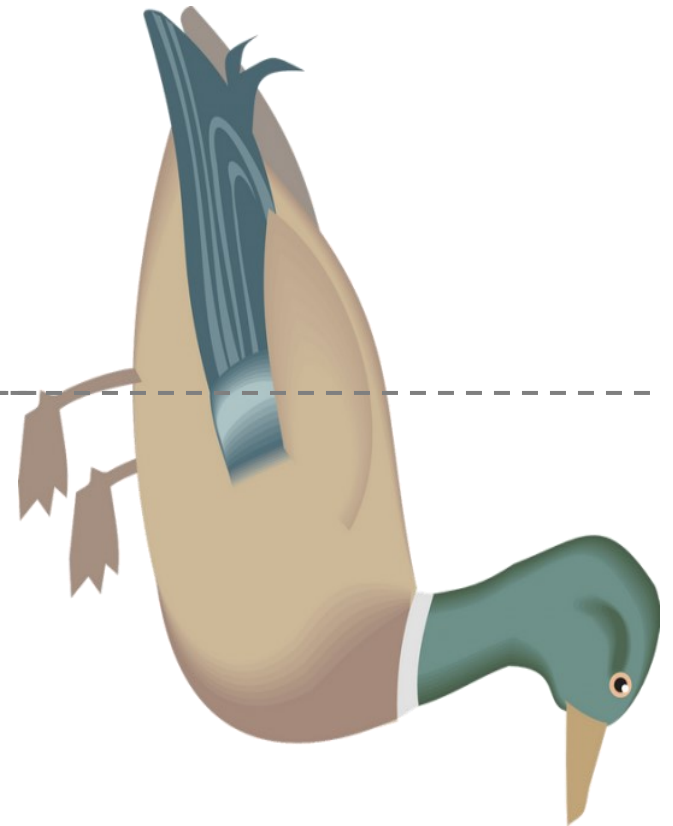
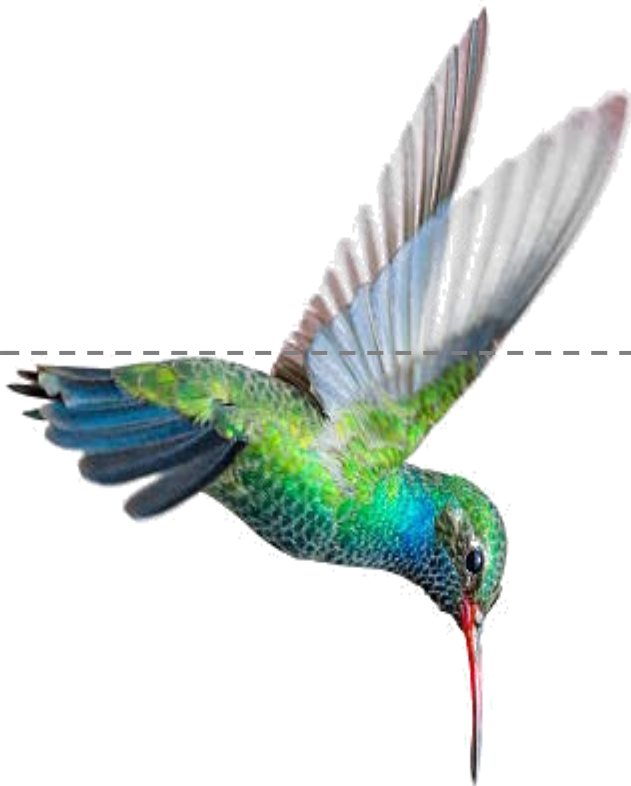
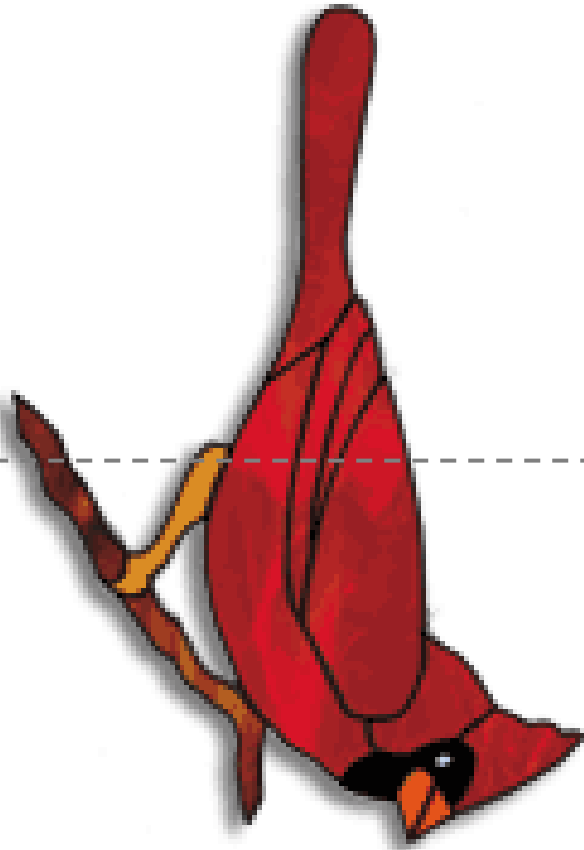
I saw a little bird go
hop, hop, hop.
I told the little bird to
stop, stop, stop.
I went to the window to say
'How do you do?'
He wagged his little tail and
far away he flew!

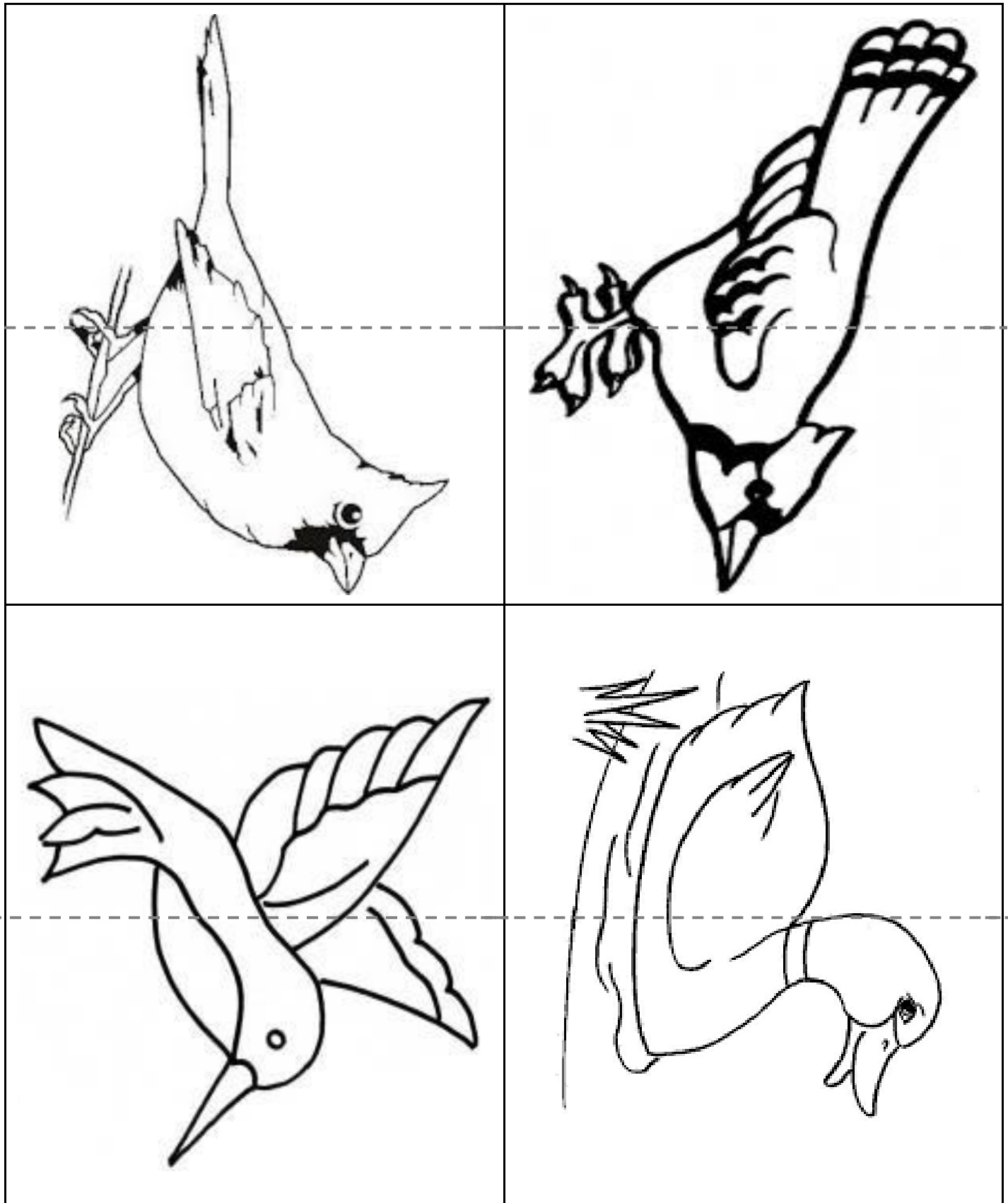
Here is the bird feeder.
Here are the seeds.
Sprinkle them on
and see what comes.
One cardinal, one chickadee,
one junco, one jay.
Four of my bird friends
are eating today.



Five baby robins watch Daddy Robin soar
One baby leaves the nest
and now there are four
Four baby robins, high up in a tree
One flies to catch a worm
and now there are three
Three baby robins had nothing to do
One tried his new found wings
and then there were two
Two baby robins frolicked in the sun
Another robin chased a bug
and then there was one
One baby robin left all alone
And this baby robin decided to stay home!

DIRECTIONS: Cut apart the rectangles on the solid lines, then cut each bird in half on the dotted lines. Have your child match the puzzle pieces or let them mix and match to make silly birds.





DIRECTIONS: Color the birds. Cut apart the rectangles on the solid lines, then cut each bird in half on the dotted lines. Have your child match the puzzle pieces or let them mix and match to make silly birds.