

## **BIRDS IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND**

Introduce the bird to the entire class: Discuss that he is a bird, talking about all the things that make a bird, a bird. e.g. feathers, lays eggs, warm blooded, vertebrate, etc. Talk about what type of bird he is and the differences between a pet versus a wild bird. Discuss where the bird originated from. Talk about the climate and environment there. As you discuss these things invite the children to guess and make predictions before providing the information.

Discuss how some birds can learn to enjoy being handled while others prefer to be left alone. If your pet enjoys being touched, discuss how to handle the bird, always washing hand before and after handling. Demonstrate for the children the appropriate way of observing the bird. Also, clearly outline the consequences for not respecting this important rule.

Finally, invite the children to help name the bird. After you receive the suggestions, make a ballot for the following day. Have each child choose two names on the ballot. After the voting is finished, announce the name with the most votes. (Our class lizard is named Lizzy Rainbow because we had a tie.)

***IMPORTANT NOTE:*** Never let the children handle or touch a bird unsupervised. Make sure your bird is exceptionally well behaved and comfortable being touched before allowing children to touch it. Many birds may be comfortable being handled at home or by its caregiver but will become aggressive when approached by someone else. Always err on the side of caution.

### **PRACTICAL LIFE:**

#### Care of Bird:

#### Materials:

- Pet Bird
- Appropriate Cage
- 2 Food dishes
- 2Water dishes
- Airtight container with birdseed mix
- Measuring cup for food
- Water source
- A small plastic basket or container to place dirty food & water containers.

#### Lesson:

Tell the children we always wash our hands before and after caring for animals.

Demonstrate for the children how to remove the water dish from the cage and empty it into the sink. Place water dish in "dirty dish" container. Do the same with the food dish except put remaining seed waste in compost or garbage.

Show them where the clean water and food dishes are stored.

Show them how much food is appropriate for your bird having the exact size measuring cup for the food. Demonstrate pouring the food into the dish and replacing in the cage door.

Demonstrate filling the water dish and replacing it in the cage door.

This can be a rotating job in the classroom. Each child can have a week where it is their job to take care of the bird. Close adult supervision is a MUST.

Remind them to wash their hands before and after caring for the bird.

For the safety of the bird, it should always be the teacher's responsibility to clean the birds dishes each day.

### **PRACTICAL LIFE:**

#### Care of Environment:

#### Materials:

-Brush and Pan

#### Lesson:

Demonstrate for the children how to sweep up birdseed, feathers and debris from around the birdcage. Show the children where the brush and pan are kept. Let them know they are free to clean up after the bird whenever they notice anything on the floor.

#### Books to Read:

I Want A Pet Cockatiel by: Gail Forsythe

The Parrot Tico Tango by: Ann Witte

Amazing Animals - Parrots by: Valerie Bodden

National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America: The Best Birding Book for Kids from National Geographic's Bird Experts by: Jonathan Alderfer

### **SONGS AND FINGER PLAYS:**

"Robin in the Rain" by Raffi (Amazon has the mp3 available for \$ .99. Also you can look for it on youtube if you just need to learn the tune.)

Five Little Chickadees (Finger Play)

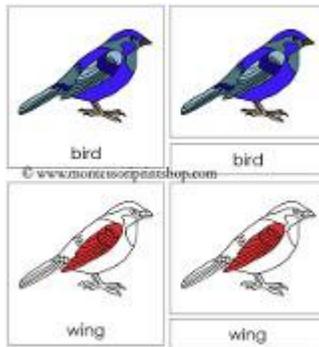
Five little chickadees knocking at the door  
One flew away and then there were four.  
Chickadee, chickadee, happy today.  
Chickadee, chickadee, fly away.  
Four little chickadees singing in a tree  
One flew away and then there were three.  
Chickadee, chickadee, happy today.  
Chickadee, chickadee, fly away.  
Three little chickadees didn't know what to do  
One flew away and then there were two.  
Chickadee, chickadee, happy today.  
Chickadee, chickadee, fly away.  
Two little chickadees sitting in the sun  
One flew away leaving only one.  
Chickadee, chickadee, happy today.  
Chickadee, chickadee, fly away.  
One little chickadees not having any fun

She flew away and then there were none.  
Chickadee, chickadee, happy today.  
Chickadee, chickadee, fly away.

## LANGUAGE:

Language classification cards for "Parts of a Bird" - These cards can easily made or can be easily printed for a small fee from the link below.

<http://www.shop.montessoriprintshop.com/Bird-Nomenclature-Cards-Red-NF-5Ra.htm?categoryId=-1>



### Materials needed:

-Parts of the Bird Three Part Cards - Which are three sets of laminated cards:

Set 1 - Laminated cards with black and white outlines of a bird, with one specific part colored, such as the wing, or beak.

Set 2 - Laminate cards for reading and labeling with the names of each part printed on it.

Set 3 - Laminated cards exactly like set 1 except the name is attached at the bottom. This set serves the children in checking to see if they labeled set 1 correctly.

-A large quantity of black and white outline coloring pages for "Parts of the Bird". Each coloring page should have a writing line on the bottom for the child to write the name of each part of the bird.

-Coloring pencils for coloring the "Parts of the Bird" coloring sheets.

-Handwriting pencil with eraser.

-Construction paper cut to the same size as the coloring sheet for making a "Parts of the Bird" booklet.

### The Lesson:

Show a small group of two or three children three cards from set #1. Show the cards one at a time, naming the parts of the bird. Ask the children, one at a time, to point to the each part as you ask for it. "Where is the beak? Where is the wing? Where is the eye?" Mix them up and repeat a few times. When you think the children know these parts, hold up each card, one at a time, and ask them to name that part. Repeat with three more cards from set #1. Continue in this manner until all the names are learned.

If the children are still interested, introduce set #2. Give each child a card to read and place under the corresponding picture card from set #1.

When all the labels have been read show the children set #3. Let the children help match the cards from set #3 with the cards from sets #1 & #2. Ask the children if the labels were placed in the correct spot. Reread any of the labels that were placed incorrectly.

Show the children how to put away the cards and tell them they can repeat this any time they like.

Now or in the near future, introduce the coloring pages. The children will copy the color and label of each card in set #3. One coloring page should be done for each card. When the children finish they can use the colored construction paper to make a "Parts of the Bird" booklet to take home.

### **GEOGRAPHY:**



Introduce a puzzle map of the continent that your class bird originated from. These maps can be purchased through a Montessori material catalogue or can be printed in duplicate on card stock. If you are printing your own maps be sure to color it. Leave one intact as a control map. The second map should have each country cut out so the children can match the pieces. This is a wonderful sensorial experience which allows the children to familiarize themselves with the shapes of these countries.

Free black and white maps can be printed from here:

<http://www.freeusandworldmaps.com/html/WorldRegions/WorldRegionsPrint.html>

Colored maps can be downloaded for a small fee from here:

<http://www.shop.montessoriprintshop.com/searchquick-submit.sc?keywords=maps>

Blank coloring pages can be a nice extension to this exercise.

### **SCIENCE / NATURE STUDY:**

#### Feather Identification:

#### Materials needed:

- Magnifying glass
- Feathers from different birds (all natural - no dyed feathers) These can be collected on nature walks with the children or purchased in craft stores. Look for "assorted natural craft feathers."
- North American Bird field guide or if you can find a local bird field guide that's even better!
- Tray on which to keep all items
- A mat large enough for the feathers and magnifying glass
- Pencil & white paper

#### The Lesson:

This is an individual work. Demonstrate taking the tray to a table. Unroll mat and place magnifying glass in the center near the bottom. Take each feather one at a time and examine it under the magnifying glass. Comment on how we hold the magnifying glass near the feather, not near our eye. Let the child have a turn. Take the field guide and show the child how to try and find the bird that the feather came from. Encourage the child to draw a picture of the feather and copy the name from the field guide. (A language lesson can also be given here, naming the parts of a feather: shaft, quill, vein, edge etc.)

UNLESS YOUR FEATHERS ARE STERILIZED, REMIND CHILDREN TO WASH THEIR HANDS AFTER TOUCHING FEATHERS.

### **SCIENCE / NATURE STUDY:**

#### Dissecting Owl Pellets:

##### Lesson:

This one is pretty much self-explanatory. On a disposable or easily disinfected surface, carefully break apart the owl pellet. Inside there will be lots of little bones. You can try to put them together and guess what animal the owl might have eaten. Each child or a pair of children can dissect an owl pellet. Just make sure that you purchase sterilized owl pellets. You can find them online. Here is a link to safety guidelines for this activity:

<http://www.carolina.com/teacher-resources/Interactive/owl-pellets-in-the-classroom-safety-guidelines/tr11086.tr>

### **SENSORIAL - visual and auditory:**

Audubon Plush Birds with real bird sounds I LOVE THESE!!!

##### Materials:

A basket large enough for the plush birds  
Audubon Plush birds that are indigenous to your area- these can be found via a search on the internet. Amazon has a large selection. I have found them as low as \$6.29 each at this website: <http://www.signals.com/cgi-bin/hazel.cgi?action=DETAIL&ITEM=HP7652#copy>  
Matching photo cards of each bird.



##### Lesson:

Give a lesson on the names of the birds. This lesson can include matching to the card. "Can you put the Tufted Titmouse plush with the picture of the Tufted Titmouse?" After the children know all the names of the birds, squeeze each bird to play its song. After its song, say the bird's name. Play a game where the children close their eyes and try to identify the birds by the song it sings. It works best to only choose two birds at a time during the listening game.

Extensions: -Go outside and listen for any of these bird calls.  
- Let the children try to find the birds in the field guide. If they are precocious readers invite them to write what they learned about in the field guide.

### **SENSORIAL - visual and touch:**

## Sorting Feathers



### Materials:

- A basket to hold feathers
- A mat
- Variety of feathers - 4 to 6 of each kind
- A nice selection of feathers can be found here:

[http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?product=24334&es=237970000ESC&utm\\_source=CSE&utm\\_medium=weblink&utm\\_campaign=shoppingcom](http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?product=24334&es=237970000ESC&utm_source=CSE&utm_medium=weblink&utm_campaign=shoppingcom)

Bonus - these same feathers can be added to the Science/Nature study - magnifying glass activity mentioned above!

### Lesson:

Show child to unroll mat on the table.

Place basket above the mat.

Place one of each kind of feather on the mat.

Invite the child to choose a feather from the basket and find the one that matches it.

Repeat until all feathers are sorted.

Demonstrate how to mix the feathers by gently returning the feathers, in random order, back into the basket.

Extension: The child can try sorting them while closing his eyes or wearing a blindfold.