

Bird Seed Box

Math, Science, and Technology



Level: Preschool

Cost: Under \$5.00

Mess factor: Some

Suggested room in the house: Outside



Fly right into the fun with this science activity created around bird seed!

Your child will experience:

- Measuring
- Comparing amounts
- Building fine-motor skills
- Making predictions

Materials:



- Large bag of bird seed
- A wide, low box (a sweater box is the perfect size, but a cardboard box with the edges cut down will be fine)
- Empty yogurt or plastic food containers
- Spoons and other kinds of scoopers
- Knee-high panty hose
- Little things for your child to play with, like doll house people, small blocks

Beginning:



Set the box outside and ask your child to help you pour in the bag of bird seed. Then let them put the containers and spoons in too.

Middle:

Your child will experience many things during this activity. Here are some things you might see, and some suggestions on how to respond:

Pouring seeds from one container to another:

“This smaller cup only filled up the big one to halfway.”

“Wow you are pouring fast/slow.”

“I wonder how many seeds are in this cup?”



Covering up their toys:

“I wonder how you can find him?”

“Why is it hiding?”

“We had four blocks, but I only see three now. Four take away three is one!”

Pouring into different containers to hear a sound:

“When you pour into that cup it makes a funny sound!”

“What does it sound like to you?”

“What sound would it make if you poured into this cup?”

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**End:**

If children begin to lose interest, bring out something totally new, like a pair of knee-high panty hose. Ask them how many scoops they think will fill it up. The panty hose will s-t-r-e-t-c-h a lot, so get ready for an interesting experiment!

**Cleanup:**

This activity is something you can come back to time after time. Find a place to store the box of seeds and scoops and pull it out another day! Leave any bird seed that has spilled over on the ground. Extend the activity by watching for birds or little animals that come to eat it up!

Younger children:

- Younger children will love to pour and scoop over and over again! Build their language skills by describing what they are doing — for example, by saying “You are pouring, pouring, pouring!” and “You scooped three cups.”

**Older children:**

- They will like to make things like tunnels, pathways and building with the cups. Ask them to predict how many scoops of bird seed it will take to fill the box, and have them write it down. Have them count their scoops out loud, and give help when children need it. Record their answer. Count the difference between their prediction and the actual scoops.

**Hints:**

- Keep the box stored inside to prevent moisture from ruining the material.
- The wider the box, the greater the number of children who can play at once.

More!

- You can use other kinds of materials, such as sand, rice, and dried corn.

Special Needs Accommodations:

- Put the box of seed on a table so that a child in a wheelchair can still reach into it.
- This is a fun activity for increasing eye-hand coordination and also for exposing children to different textures.

