

Can You Build a Nest?

Materials:

- Leaves
- Feathers
- Yarn/ String
- Dried Grass
- Ping Pong Ball
- Twigs
- Yard Stick

Objective:

Explorers will attempt to create a nest that will keep an egg safe.

Lesson:

The goal is to create a nest that will keep an egg safe. The safety test will be to drop the nest with an egg (ping pong ball) from a height of a yard. If the egg does not “crack” or fall out of the nest, it is safe!

Tell explorers that they are birds preparing a nest for their egg. Distribute “nature” items around the room and give kids 3 minutes to *find* as many items as they can to help make a good nest (or take kids into the backyard to gather items for themselves).

Explain the competition aspect of the nest building: tell kids that they will have 10 minutes to complete their nest before time is called.

After the nest is built, host the competition and allow the kids to watch as each nest is tested. (If there is only one child participating, have them make several types of nests and test them out)

After the competition discuss:

- What materials worked best?
- Which did not help?
- Did the shape matter?
- What about a bird will help them to create a nest? (Ex: Their wings allow them to fly to get items, claws to pick up, beak to place things, etc.)
- Did you need more time? More items?

