

Outdoor & Woodland Learning Activity Sheet

Activity:	Bird Nest Maths									
Habitat:	Woodland, Croftland, Garden, seashore			Season:	S	✓	S	✓	A	W

Level	
Early	✓
First	✓
Second	✓
Third and Fourth	
Senior Phase	

Curriculum topics			
Expressive Arts	✓	Health and Wellbeing	✓
Languages	✓	Mathematics	✓
Religious & Moral Ed		Sciences	✓
Social Studies		Technology	✓

Equipment*
10-20 egg shaped pebbles or pinecones
Nest-building material
Number cards

Time
Various

Key outcomes
Explore numbers, understanding that they represent quantities.
Use practical materials and 'count on and back' to help understand addition and subtraction.
Use addition & subtraction, (multiplication and division) when solving problems, using mental strategies.

*Items depicted in bold are available from CALLP

Activity description
A very flexible activity that can be as simple as putting the number of eggs into the nest shown on the card or can be extended to more complicated sums.

Notes
Can be linked with: Bird Theatre Bird Nests in the Woods



Bird nest game -basic numeracy to adding and subtracting. For nursery age pupils to P4.

1. Collect 10 to 20 “egg shaped” pebbles from the beach, (remember to return them when you’ve finished with them). Try and find some interesting coloured pebbles– what is your favourite?
2. Take the pebble eggs home and put them in a pile in the garden.
3. Make some number cards, on pieces of paper will do fine. Write one number on each card from 1 to 10. (can be extended for older children or if you have a lot of eggs!)
4. Collect some sticks, leaves, bits of grass, anything that the birds might use to make a nest (try not to pick any moss as it takes a long time to grow).
5. Make a birds nest in a cosy place. Make sure its somewhere that you can reach and where you’ll be able to put your pebble eggs inside.
6. Take a bit of time to make the nest look good and cosy.
7. Once this is all ready, you’re ready to play the game.
8. Ask an adult or older brother or sister to help. Ask them to give you a number and then go and fetch that number of eggs for your nest.

Notes: Children can hide their eyes and numbers can be placed in the nest, then they can check the number and go to fetch the correct number. This game can be as simple as putting the number of eggs into the nest that is shown on the card or can be extended to more complicated sums. For example if 5 eggs have been put into the nest, give them another number card, ask them to takeaway that number, then ask how many are left. It is a very flexible activity and if the pile of eggs is a distance away from the nest, can also involve a bit of running around as well.

