

# STEM

*starts now*

## Bird Feeder

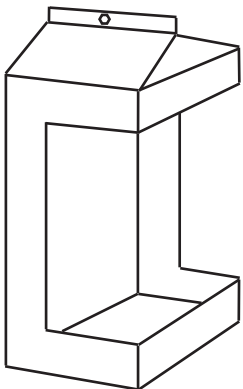
**Recommended Age:** 53-60 Months

**STEM concepts:** Science (life science), Technology (simple tools), Engineering (Engineering), Math (pattern Identification)

**Materials:** milk carton, sturdy string, hole puncher, pencil(unsharpened), scissors, a jar lid with high sides, and bird feed.

**What to do:** Based on the given materials, tell your child that you will be designing a bird feeder to discover the different birds in the area. Start by cutting the milk carton so that it looks like a big c from the side. See below for reference. Punch a hole in the top and on both side of the bottom toward the front. Insert a string through the top hole for hanging. Insert the pencil through the bottom two holes so that the pencil runs through the bottom of the feeder across the front. If there is room, place the jar lid on the bottom of the inside of the milk jug but under the pencil. This will be where the feed will go to keep it from damaging the milk jug. Once your feeder is complete hang it outside in a lower area so that your child can observe the birds that visit.

**Language and Communication:** Compare the types of foods your family eats to what the birds will eat. Change the food in the feeder and see if you attract different birds. Compare the types of birds you are observing with your child. Use paper and pencil and encourage your child to draw the birds they see. You can add words for them that describe the types of colors or feathers they are seeing. Another conversation to have with you child is about how the bird moves around the planet. Mention the birds body parts and what they do to help the bird to live.



**Expand the Activity:** This activity can also be done with a heavy engineer approach by giving your child multiple materials from your house - recycled materials, art supplies etc. They can design their own bird house.