

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**Birding For
Babies: Backyard
Birds**

Written by Chloe Goodhart
Illustrated By Gareth Lucas

Infant/Toddler edition

Overview of Book

What are those birds we see all the time? Have fun looking as you learn to identify common backyard birds while at the same time, practice counting to 10 AND learn a fun fact about each of the different birds in this beautifully illustrated board book!

Genre: Non-fiction/informational

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Birding For Babies* to introduce in your room:

bird names in the book

binoculars	racket
flock	crest
forage	perch

Each time you read the book, highlight 2 or 3 words.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or refer to the illustrations to help children understand each word's meaning.

Use the new words throughout the day, reminding children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Language, Literacy
and Communication
Item N (*Phonological
awareness*)

Mathematics
Item S (*Numbers and
counting*), Item W (*Data
analysis*)

Science and
Technology Item BB
(*Observing and
classifying*)

Reading Tips

Let the children know you will need their help to count the birds in each page and make sure the numbers all match. Imitate the birdcalls that are represented on some of the pages. "Can we all be a black-capped chickadee? Chick-a-dee-dee." Notice several different birds have "crests". "I wonder why some birds have crests and some have smooth heads?" Make time for children to consider this and offer their ideas. Ask who has seen some of these birds and where.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. During each reading the adult can introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Give everyone 2 rhythm sticks to pretend to be *red-bellied woodpeckers* at **Small Group Time**. *Tap-tap-tap* out syllables of bird names- and the children's.

Plan on taking clipboards, pencils, a simple prepared chart and the book with you at **Outside Time**. Observe for birds from the book and mark down how many are spotted. Do this daily and keep track of the data. Which birds are observed the most? Which are seen fewer times or not at all?

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add nuts to sand in the **Sand and Water Area**. Encourage *foraging* and collecting 10- one for each bird in the book.

Add other relevant Imagination Library titles to the **Book Area**. Include "My baby Blue Jays" by John Berendt and "Birds of a Feather" by Sita Singh.

Place colorful feathers in the **Art Area**. Encourage children to create their own versions of the birds in the book.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These "wondering aloud" questions support children's developing focus and attention as they encourage young children's capacity to make connections and see possibilities.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Birding For Babies*:

Which birds do you like best? Why?

If you were a bird, how would you sound?

I wonder why some birds eat bugs and some eat seeds?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many children in our county will have this book at home, use it to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Birding For Babies* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

Have fun counting and re-counting the birds in the book as you and your child learn about backyard birds together. When outside, or at an open window, be very quiet and listen for birdcalls. How many different birdcalls do you hear? Bring the book on a walk or while outside at your home. Look for the birds in the book and listen for their call. Encourage your child to imitate the birdcalls. Ask questions like, "What do you think they are saying?" Ask your child to tell you what they think of the birds and if they have a favorite. Look for and listen to birds at different times of the day and take notice of any differences in what they are doing and why this might be.