

# Bird Fat Pecker

Age: 5-9    Group size: 6

Duration: 15 mins



Preparation time: 10 mins

## Resources

- Old bread eg crusts from lunchboxes, nuts, seeds or a bag of proprietary bird feed
- Terracotta or plastic plant pots
- String, twine or wire
- Lard
- Saucepan
- Cooker
- fridge
- Forks
- Large bowl or a small bowl for each child



*Late winter is a very difficult time for garden birds. Berries and seeds from last summer are almost gone. Frosty, cold weather means that there is less worm and insect movement. Many birds need to eat as much as their own bodyweight in food a day to keep them alive. They need to maintain body fat to help them survive cold nights.*

## Preparation

Each child should have a fork and a long piece of string or wire, plus a pot (if using).

## Activity

The fat pecker needs to hang. If there are 2 or more holes in the base of the pot, thread the string through and tie a knot. If the pot has just one hole the string can be held in place by looping the string around a cork in the bottom of the pot, passing it through the



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hole and then tying a knot on the outside. Alternatively the mixture can be moulded into a sausage shape around the string

Put the lard into a pan and heat over a low heat (adult), stirring until it is melted. While this is happening the children can prepare the dry ingredients. Tear up the bread into small pieces and mix it in with the seeds, nuts etc.



The adult should pour the melted fat into the large

bowl or individual bowls. Mix everything together; if the mixture is too wet add some more ingredients.

Fork the sticky mixture into the pots, pressing it down hard, or take a large handful and mould it into a sausage shape. Press the string into the middle of it and then add some more mixture to make a nice fat sausage.



Put the fat peckers into a fridge for about 10 minutes to set. Hang the fat peckers from bushes, branches or from a bird table.

