

Bird Watching

Looking for birds is a great way to connect with nature and to practice important science skills, like observing patiently and asking questions. Take a bird-watching walk with your child to **observe** birds in your neighborhood. As you watch, notice and discuss their **sizes**, **colors**, and **behaviors**, such as **where they rest** and **how they fly**. Also talk with your child about **questions** you or your child might have, such as what they eat, where they live, how they fly, or why they have particular features. Help your child look for answers to their questions by observing carefully or by looking in books or online.

Encourage your child **draw a picture or take a photograph** of one of the birds they see in the box below or on any piece of paper. You can post their photos in the [“UChicago Ready, Set, STEM!” Facebook group](#) in the Topic: **Bird Watching**.

Bird Number Stories

Pose addition and subtraction number stories about birds for children to solve.
For example:

- *There were 2 baby birds in the nest. Then the daddy bird came to give them some worms. How many birds were there in the nest then?*
- *After the 3 birds ate the worms together, the daddy bird flew away to look for more food. How many birds were left in the nest?*
- *I see 5 birds on the telephone wire. 2 of them are big. The rest are small. How many are small?*

Begin with numbers 5 and under, moving to bigger numbers as your child seems ready. Help your child act out the stories and/or use objects, pictures, their fingers, and counting to help them understand and solve the problems.

Help your child think of a bird number story problem. Write their problem below and have them draw a picture of it in the box. You can share their number stories in the [“UChicago Ready, Set, STEM!” Facebook group](#) in the Topic: **Bird Watching**.

Number Story: _____
