



Children learn why habitats must have the right kind of material to help animals build their homes.

Home Sweet Home 2



Keywords **slideshow** • **discussion** • **crafts action for nature**

- 1 This activity is suitable for early spring. In **TREES ARE COOL 3** the children were made aware of roosting sparrows. Now they follow the sparrow's life into nest-building. Find out what the children know about birds' nests, why they build them, what they use, etc. Show the *Nests!* presentation (Downloadable Material). While watching, the children look out for what materials the birds used for their nest.
- 2 Provide straw / twigs / wood-shavings, put the children in groups and get them to try and build a nest like the sparrow's. Place the materials on one side of the classroom and set up a 'nesting site' on the other side. The children come and go to get materials, just as birds do. This exercise should be a fun way of showing how hopeless we are at building nests, despite having hands and fingers!
- 3 Set homework for the children to bring material for the birds to use for their nests, such as the items you provided, taking care not to destroy natural habitats in the process!
- 4 At school, the children make a dispenser for nest material. You may use the guidelines in **Resource File** or google other ideas. Once these are ready, the children decide if they wish to hang them outside in school or at home. Prompt a discussion about where to put the dispensers by asking questions about where the children see sparrows come and go, where they know there are nests, etc.
- 5 If your dispensers are in the school grounds, make sure to label them for caretakers to know they are an ongoing project. Check if the dispensers are being used. You can do this from a distance to see if birds are coming and going, or by checking if the material is vanishing. If your nest-building material is used, make sure to celebrate your success in helping wildlife!

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of children

- ☐ discussing presentations
☐ building 'nests'

- ☐ building dispensers

