

Daily Challenge Day 25 Make a Bird Feeder

Parent/Carer help needed.



Take care when cutting into plastic bottles. Sharp plastic can cause cuts, both for you and the birds you'll be feeding. Feathers can also get caught on jagged edges, so try to make the holes in the bottle as smooth as possible.

You will need two sticks to use as perches. These need to be wider than the bottle by around 10 centimetres, so there is enough space for birds to perch on each side.

As with any bird feeder, plastic bottle feeders can be cleaned with boiling water. This type of feeder won't last forever, however, and should be replaced every so often. This prevents a build-up of rotting food and bacteria that could harm the birds using your feeder.



To make a bird feeder, you will need:

plastic bottle (with cap)

two sticks

a pin

scissors

string

1. Remove the cap from a clean plastic bottle. Use the pin to puncture several small drainage holes in the base of the bottle.
2. Use the pin to make two level holes on opposite sides of the bottle, near to the base. Use the scissors to widen them slightly.
3. Push a stick through the holes. There should be around 5 centimetres of stick left outside the bottle on each side for the perches.
4. Slightly above each perch, use the scissors to cut a feeding hole the size of a 5p coin.
5. Create a second set of perches and feeding holes: repeat steps 2 to 4 further up the sides of the bottle and offset by 90° from the original.
6. Use the pin to make two holes in the neck of the bottle, on opposite sides and level with each other. Widen these with scissors.
7. Thread the string through the holes, then fill the bottle with a bird food and replace the bottle cap. You may need to make a funnel with a sheet of paper to make filling the bottle easier.
8. Find a sheltered location outside to hang your feeder - tying it onto a tree branch or washing line would work well.
9. Watch from a distance or indoors for birds to begin landing on your feeder. It may take a few days before this begins to happen.
10. Identify the birds that come to feed. You can use books, mobile apps and the internet to help you.