

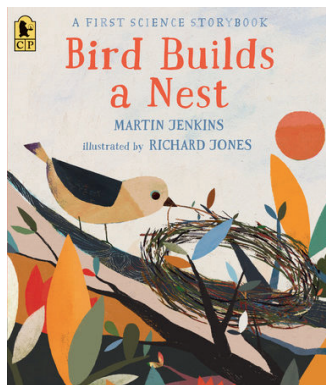
The Scoop in Family Child Care

September 2026 | Issue 63

SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

Featured Book

It's time for bird to build her nest! Follow her as she pulls a worm out of the ground, lifts some twigs that are just the right size, and putting the twigs into place. Using simple, clear language and beautiful illustrations, this engaging story is the perfect introduction to physical forces for young readers. With it's upbeat tone and engaging curiosity, this story playfully captures the bird's lengthy task of building a home, with an emphasis on the bird's physical actions, like pushing, pulling, and carrying.



https://youtu.be/75_2z4nSh7M?si=sGPcxDhtAwXzSRhH

Sensory

Beautiful Bird Sensory Bin

Materials Needed

- Large bin or sensory table
- Cardboard
- Bird seed
- Fake birds
- Pretend multi-sized bird nests
- Feathers
- Bowls and spoons



Possible Ways to Interact with the Materials

Children could see how many birds they can fit into the different-sized nests, sort the feathers by color or pattern, scoop the bird seed and sort through the mixture, compare the birds based on size and color, and more!

Art Project

Painting with Feathers

Materials Needed

- Paper
- Paint
- Feathers
- Pipe Cleaners

Instructions

Provide children with paper, paint, and feathers. Allow children to dip their feathers into the paint and create their artwork. As a bonus, have bent pipe cleaners that children can dip in the paint and create their own bird footprints.



Finger Play

I Saw a Little Bird

Once I saw a bird
And it went hop, hop, hop
I said to the bird
"Won't you stop, stop, stop?"
I went to the window
To say, "How do you do?"
The little bird shook its tail
And away it flew



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KFMYCEv9G4>

Nutrition

Little Birdie Banana Nests

Ingredients Ideas

- Paper Plate
- Pretzel Sticks
- Banana Slices
- Cheese
- Mini Chocolate Chips



Directions

Cut a paper plate in half. Take a banana and cut it into slices. Set a handful of pretzel sticks at the bottom of the plate to create a nest-inspired shape. Take the banana slices and set them above the pretzel nest. Take a slice of cheese and cut it into small triangles, and place it on top of the banana slice to resemble a beak. Lastly, take two mini chocolate chips, and place them on each banana slice for eyes.

12 More Books Featuring Birds



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Referral Services

Complete Update Survey

It's time for the annual Complete Update Survey! We ask that all providers fill this out, regardless of whether they accept CCAP or are part of the Referral Database, so we can have the clearest picture of child care in Central Illinois. The survey will be sent out via mail and email. Additionally, there will be an online survey that you can fill out, or you can call and go over the survey with the Referral Specialist.

If you have any questions, contact our Referral Specialist, Jessi, at jguzman@salccc.org or (309) 686-3750, Ext. 2129

Health & Safety

Biting in the Child Care Setting

A child may bite others for various reasons, such as teething, learning to play with other children, being frustrated in expressing needs/wants, or feeling threatened by a new or changing situation in life. Strategies that may help include providing a cold teething toy or chewing foods, providing opportunities to make age-appropriate choices, noticing the child and giving positive attention, reading books about biting, and helping the child talk about how they are feeling. For more information, check out the California Childcare Health Program at UCSF School of Nursing, www.cchp.ucsf.edu.

Home Child Care Network

Home Child Care Network is seeking licensed home care providers to join their **free** program. Their program offers free monthly training, technical support for grants and budgets, mental health support including screenings, and add-on rates for 2nd and 3rd shifts and weekends, with monthly payments guaranteed by the 15th of the month.

For more information, call (309) 685-8064.

Home Daycare Professional Group

Third Tuesday of the Month
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting



For more information on any of our programs and services
Call: (309) 686-3750 | Fax: (309) 686-3850 | Visit: www.salccc.org
Child Care Assistance Program - Option 2
Referrals - Extension 2129
Training Registration & Grants - Extension 2111
Higher Education Navigation - Extension 2107
Smart Start Grant Expert - Extension 2105
Quality Visits or Information on ExceleRate - Extension 2105
Infant-Toddler Consultations - Extension 2118

Trainings

What Do Your Walls Say? Using Display to Support Children in Family Child Care

This workshop digs into the FCCERS-R subscale on display for children, exploring what meaningful, child-centered display looks like and how it connects to children's sense of belonging and engagement.

Tuesday, September 8

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | In-Person and Online via Zoom

Registration Deadline: 11:55 p.m. Monday, August 31

Register at www.salccc.org/provider-services/training.

Grants

Fiscal Year 2027 grants are coming soon!

Keep your eyes open for the applications for CPR/First Aid Reimbursement, Individual Professional Development Fund, and Quality Improvement Fund.

For more information on grant opportunities and the application links, go to www.salccc.org/provider-services/grant-opportunities.

Higher Education Navigation

Thinking about advancing your Early Education Career?

Contact a Higher Education Navigator for Help:

1. Determining your educational goals
2. Identifying which programs are available to best fit your needs
3. Connecting you with Early Childhood Education scholarship opportunities
4. Acting as a point of contact with Higher Education Institutions
5. Completing your Gateways membership
6. CDA cohort
7. Other assistance as needed

Call (309) 686-3750 Ext. 2107

SAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

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