



A Bird's Eye View. Welcome to Chances Park.



Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 8-14 years.

It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail" for additional information. Adults must stress to children that they must not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after completing the activities.



Activity 1: What's in a Name?

We will start our trail at the Yew Tree, marked **2** on your map. From here you will walk slowly and quietly to the Holly Tree, marked **3** on your map. Look and listen for birds, on the ground, on the wall, in the trees and in the sky.

Woodpecker Tree Creeper Pied Wagtail

These birds' names give you clues about where you might spot them, and how they behave. From their names, what do you know about each bird?

Activity 2: Food, Glorious food

Birds spend a lot of their time looking for food, so if you can find a place where there is a good food supply, you should spot some birds. Where do you think will be a good place to look?

Can you name 5 different things which birds like to eat?



Activity 3: Home to Roost

There are two areas on your map which are marked **5** "Home to creepy crawlies". You are going to explore both areas. You are looking out for birds which are feeding on the insects and minibeasts which live on the trees, both fallen and living. Before you move, have a think about how you will need to behave, to give yourself the best chance of spotting any birds.

When you reach the area in the centre of the park, surrounded by meadows, have a look up into the trees. Can you see any nests up in the trees? You are going to work with a partner to build a nest on the ground. You can only use one hand, like a beak, to pick up the materials you will use. You can only use materials which are lying on the ground. Work with your partner, and don't steal from anyone else's nest!

When you think your nest is finished, show it to your adult and tell them how you made it. Why do birds build nests? Do you think your nest is strong enough to survive being outside in the wind and the rain?



Activity 4: Birds of a Feather



As you walk to the Performance Area, marked **9** on your map, look all around you for birds. There may be some flying overhead. Gulls often scavenge for food on the park. They are large white or grey birds, who make a loud, high pitched “keow” noise.

You are now going to pretend to be one of three different birds. Read the three descriptions. Decide which bird you are going to be, but don’t tell anyone.

Common Gull: I walk around the park, looking on the ground for any food, such as worms. My call is a high pitched “keow”.

Robin: I watch carefully, spot a worm, swoop in, grab it and fly away. My song sounds like “twiddle-oo, twiddle-ee-dee, twiddle-oo, twiddle”, sung very high and very quickly.

Blackbird: I run along, pause, look around, grab a worm or insect, then run away to eat it. My song is a beautiful whistle, ending with a harsh “hach cack cack”.

Now you must move around your friends, in the way your bird moves. If you spot someone moving in the same way as you make the noise your bird makes. Can you find any birds that are the same as you? If you do, stand with them, to make a “flock”.

When you think you have found all of your “flock”, show your adult how you all move, and demonstrate your songs.



Activity 5: Super Senses



You are now going to walk to the area marked **7** on your map, the Owl Boxes. As you walk, look up into the trees; you will be able to see the boxes in the branches, towards the top of the trees. If you are very lucky you may see a Little Owl, as they do sometimes sit on the branches through the day.

Little Owls hunt for small mammals, such as voles, insects and even other birds. Their sense of hearing is much better than ours, and is specially “tuned in” to the sounds voles and mice make.

Owls have feathers arranged around their ears, which funnel any noise towards their ears. Use your hands to cup behind your ears. Close your eyes and ask a friend to move around. Can you sense their movement? Try again without cupping your ears...does it make any difference?



Activity 6: Your Return Flight

As you walk back to Morton Manor look around for birds flying overhead. Have a think about all the different types of birds which you have seen. What could you do to encourage more birds to visit your garden or playground?