

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key Q	What are the differences between birds and me?	
Session description	Get nose to beak with birds, to spot the differences between birds and us. How does their structure and behaviour compare with us and each other and what do we all need to survive?	
Key Stage Suitability	Early Years	
Duration	45 minutes - 1 hour	

Curriculum links	3- and 4-year-olds will be learning to... - Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. - Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties. - Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. - Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Children in reception will be learning to... - Explore the world around them. - Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. - Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	- be able to identify and name a variety of common wetland birds. - be able to closely observe, investigate and compare identified differences between birds and themselves.	- be able to describe the basic needs of individual birds specific to a wetland habitat. - be able to describe, using scientific vocabulary, how wildfowl are adapted to living in a wetland.
Key vocabulary	Adaptations Similarities Differences	Feeding Beak Waterproof Webbed Habitat or home Wildfowl

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	3 mins
Learners are introduced to the wetlands and to the key question – What are the differences between birds and me?	
Activity 1: Feed the birds and observe	10 mins
Learners feed the birds in small groups, observing the birds and their feeding behaviour. They chat in their groups about what they have seen or noticed.	
Activity 2: Investigation work	20 - 30 mins
Learners carry out hands on investigations on a variety of themes e.g. feeding, moving, keeping warm etc.	
Activity 3: Feedback and summarise	5 mins
Each group shares their most interesting fact learnt or new discovery made from their investigative work.	

Plenary	5 mins
Learners answer the key question and are encouraged to think about what else they might spot during their time at the centre.	