

Melina's Walk

One fall morning Melina woke up and said to her mom "Mommy what shall we do today?"

"It's such a beautiful day" said her mother "lets go for a walk". Melina put her sweater on and picked up her carry bag so she could collect interesting things on the walk and off they went. The air

was chilly compared to the warm house but as soon as they started walking Melina didn't mind so much. "Look mommy" said Melina "this leaf is so brown and crackly."

"Yes" said her mother "in the fall the leaves dry out and fall from the trees. The trees don't need them when they go into their deep winter sleep. See if you can find some red and yellow ones." Melina ran this way and that picking up the biggest most beautiful leaves she could find. She loved the sound they made as they crunched beneath her feet.

She put the leaves in her bag and they continued with their walk. In the cracks of the sidewalk Melina spotted a dandelion and ran to pick it. She had fun blowing the seeds and pretending they were fairies flying away to grant a wish.

Melina was feeling a little tired so they decided to rest under the big oak tree. They were sitting in the shade and listening to the birds when a squirrel with a bushy tail ran out and grabbed an acorn. He was collecting acorns so he would have food in the winter.

As soon as they had rested enough they began walking again. Under the Pine tree they found lots of wonderful pinecones. Some were tightly closed and smooth and others had opened and let their seeds fall to the ground where they would grow into baby pine trees. "Take one of those home," said mommy "I know exactly what we are going to do with it! We are going to make a pine cone bird feeder to hang in our garden."

"Let's go home and make it right away" said Melina. And they did.



Pinecone Bird Feeder



Before you begin gather all the materials and prepare your work surface.

Things You'll Need:

Lots of newspaper or an easy to clean table cloth

Pine cones

Vegetable shortening

Large shallow dish

String

Birdseed

4 Easy steps to a fantastic bird feeder

1. Cover a table with newspaper or an easy to clean table cloth.
2. Tie the hanging string onto the pine cone. This will be how the feeder hangs.
3. Coat the pine cone in vegetable shortening. This is the 'glue'.
4. Pour birdseed into a shallow dish and roll the pine cone in the birdseed until it is completely covered

Now you have a wonderful bird feeder to hang in your garden and it wont be long till the birds show up for a delicious snack.