



High Touch High Tech®

Science Experiences That Come To You™

Bird Beak Activity

Supplies:

- Tray with oatmeal and assortment of items: marbles, noodles, buttons, paper clips, raisin, Styrofoam peanuts, dried beans.
- Different types of “beaks”: big and small tongs, spoons, chopsticks, tweezers, clothespins.

Instructions:

1. Set out tray and “beaks”
2. Experiment with different types of beaks as you pick up all the different types of food.
 - a. Which beak is easiest? Can it pick up all the types of food?
 - b. Which food is hardest to pick up? Which beak works to get it?
3. Allow for free discovery. Compare and contrast the beaks.

The Science Behind it:

What do animals use to eat their food? Do they have forks and spoons like us? Of course not! Animals have specialized traits to help them eat. Some animals have claws and sharp teeth. Other animals have long tongues or paws.

What about birds? How do they eat? Birds have **beaks** to help them catch insects, gather seeds, and carry food to their young. Different species of birds have different types of beaks.

Birds all have different beaks depending on the type of food they catch. Cranes have super long beaks so they can catch fish, woodpeckers have a sharp bill so they can tap into wood for bugs, and chickadees have cute little beaks that are perfect for eating seeds. Which beak would you want?