

# Are You My Mother?

by P.D. Eastman

A beloved picture book about a baby bird that falls out of the nest and sets off in search of its mother without any idea what she looks like.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How often do you think baby birds do fall out of their nests?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why that bird is on top of that dog's head?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end.

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did the mother bird leave the nest?
- How did the baby bird fall out of the nest?
- Who did the baby bird ask first if they were his mother? Second? Third?
- Why did the baby bird call the crane a "Snort?"
- Do you think the baby bird was scared of the Snort?
- How do you think the baby bird felt when his mother came back to the nest?

## Do

### Build a Bird's Nest Activity

Birds spend hours searching for and collecting materials to make a cozy nest, so why not help them out? Lend them a hand -- or wing -- by trying this Build a Bird's Nest Activity.

#### What You'll Need:

Nature and human-made materials

Modeling clay

In addition to twigs and leaves, birds like to use bits of string, yarn, lint, and other human-made materials to build and furnish their homes.

Take a walk outside and pretend that you are a bird that needs to make a nest. See what building materials you can find. Look for natural materials like leaves and twigs, and also for human-made materials.

When you get back home, shape some modeling clay into a bird's nest. Line the inside and outside of the nest with the things you collected, until you come up with the perfect bird home.

Source: [www.home.howstuffworks.com](http://www.home.howstuffworks.com)

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