



ARTS PLUS

PAL at Home

Preschool Art Lab activities for families to make together

“Popsicle Stick Birdhouse”

This activity is appropriate for ages 3 and up (with heavy parental assistance needed)

Time from start to finish = 15 – 30 minutes

You will need the following materials:

- Popsicle sticks (you will need 72 for this design, but you can make an altered version with less if needed)
- Hot glue gun (or liquid glue)
- Birdseed

The instructions below will show you how to make the example on the right. Other images in this document may differ in design.



Brief project description: Use popsicle sticks to create your own birdhouse architectural masterpiece!

Steps

- **#1: Gather popsicle sticks. Plug in your hot glue gun to heat up.** Parents should always help younger children with hot glue guns. (You may also use regular liquid glue but you will need to allow more drying time between steps.)
- **#2: Create the base of the birdhouse. This will require 30 popsicle sticks.** To create the base, lay down 10 popsicle sticks side by side in parallel lines. Using two more popsicle sticks, attach them with the glue to either end of the first ten popsicle sticks in a perpendicular direction. Now add two more popsicle sticks on the other two sides, on top of the two you just glued down. This should begin to create a border around the base of the birdhouse. Using the remaining popsicle sticks from the 30 for the base and continue gluing them around the edge, alternating sides.



A close-up of the base without columns or a roof

- **#3: Create the roof of the birdhouse. This will require 24 popsicle sticks.** Lay down 10 popsicle sticks side by side in parallel lines. Using two more popsicle sticks, attach them with the glue to either end of the first ten popsicle sticks in a perpendicular direction. This should keep the roof section together. Repeat this to create the other half of the roof.
- **#4: Attach the roof to the base and create a perch. The final steps will require 18 popsicle sticks.** Using 16 of the popsicle sticks, glue them together length wise in sets of four. This should create 4 sets of 'thick' popsicle sticks. Using these sets of popsicle sticks, glue 1 into each of the four inner corners of the base. This will make four columns which are used to attach your roof. Glue the roof onto the four columns at each edge and add another line of glue to stick the two sides of the roof together in the middle (the highest point of the triangle shaped roof). Finally, attach two popsicle sticks side by side under the middle of one of the base edges to create a perch.
- **#5: Allow to dry completely.** Fill the base of the birdhouse with birdseed and find an outdoor location for your creation. Watch as the birds come and visit your new masterpiece! Feel free to experiment with the design or add decorations as you see fit.



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