

Backyard Wildlife Fun for Kids: Acorn Necklaces

This time of the year, oaks all across the state are dropping their acorns. Take a trip out to your backyard or to a local park and see if you can collect some acorns with their caps still on. Bring the acorns home and let your kid's imaginations soar!

Materials:

- Capped acorns
- Colored fuzzy yarn or wool
- Tacky glue
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- String



Instructions

1. Gather capped acorns and carefully remove the caps.
2. To make hair, put one large drop of tacky glue on the top of each acorn and press wisps of fuzzy yarn and wool roving into it. After applying a second drop onto the wisps, put the caps back on and hold them on for one minute.
3. Use a permanent marker to draw faces. Trim the hair, then make "chains" by tying string around the cap stem and securing it with a drop of glue.



Other Tips:

- Use other plant parts to make acorn people. Sticks and various seed pods can also be used.
 - If you decide to only draw faces on acorns, then kids can plant these into the ground. Label the areas where the acorns have been planted and check them in the spring to see what sprouts!
 - Collect acorns from different species of oaks. Place 10 of each type of acorn on a labeled paper plate and set them out in the backyard or on your deck. Let the acorns sit for a day, and then see if any wildlife like squirrels carried them off. Are certain types of acorns favored more than others? If possible, then try to use a field guide to identify the oak species to see which are the most palatable.
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