
The Birds' Wedding Day

— Nancy Blanning

A circle play appropriate for nursery as well as mixed-age kindergarten

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Note: each section / gesture can be repeated 2-3 times

Hush and whisper! Can you keep..... Speak very softly and make hushing gesture, index finger to mouth, then head tipped to side to suggest sleepiness.

A secret while the birds still sleep?

It's Valentine's, the very day..... Back of hands touching at mid-chest/heart level, then swoop up and inscribe a large heart in the air while slowly speaking "Valentine's."

When the rising sun will say, Starting low, round arms and raise above head as the rising sun.

"Wake up, birdies, come to play!..... Fling arms open with a little hop as a joyful gesture.

It is your special wedding day."

The lady birds come out to say,..... Spoken in a light voice—with elbows bent and held close to torso, flutter forearms and hands as wings.

"This is a special wedding day."..... Give small curtsy.

The gentlemen birds come out to say,..... Spoken in a deeper voice—chest stuck out, arms straight as wings and held slightly back and down, pulse more slowly and deliberately.

"This is a special wedding day."..... Give a noble bow.

They flutter from the trees to ground Arms begin above head and flutter downward while all remain standing.

And hope a treasure can be found— Head looking downward as though searching

Some seeds to make a wedding feast Gesture with finger tips to pinch small seeds

For all the birds, greatest and least.

They hop, hop here and hop, hop there..... Hop in one direction, then another.

They twirl in the sunny air. Either twirl in place or hop a full turn in place.

(Repeat 2-3x as desired.)

- The seeds they pat into a cake.* Pat hands together, one on top of the other.
Repeat the line and switch position of hands.
- That the Sun's bright rays will bake.* Hands lifted above head in open gesture, lower
and bring closer and closer together to show
concentrated sun rays "embracing" the cake.
- The feast is ready. But where will they live?* Hands open, palms up to gesture a question.
- They need a home to baby birdies give.* Nod head in affirmation / agreement.
- Off they soar, flying in a ring.* Begin flying / soaring around in the circle.
Repeat this line at least 3X, perhaps more to
give enough time for movement around the
ring. Then stop before speaking the next line.
- "A nest we'll weave—the very thing!—* Gesture shape of nest with cupped hands
- Of sticks and brass and bits of string."* Suggest weaving by extending right hand/
forearm over the left, then left over
right. On "bits of string," tap thumb and
forefinger on each hand together with each
of the three words.

Move in toward center of circle gradually as you repeat these two lines,
condensing the size of the circle until everyone is close together.

- The nest is ready, snug and warm* Everyone sits on the floor, together becoming
the nest. Gently, slightly lean into each other
to show coziness.
- To shelter birds from any storm.*
- Mrs. Bird and Mister, too,* Everyone quiets and settles into restfulness,
- Settle in, that's what they do.* Shift weight from side-to-side on bottom like
a bird settling onto the eggs in a nest.
- Each says, "A Happy Wedding Day to you."* If a rest time is to follow, everyone can lie
down when this line is finished.