

Episode 205: "¿Dónde Esta? Or, Where is it?" - Activity 35

While out on a walk with your child, observe some pájaros (birds) and collect some pine cones of varying sizes and shapes. Upon return, provide your child with a magnifying glass/hand lens so he/she may make observations about the pine cones. Encourage your child to explore the properties (e.g., size, color, texture, and shape) of pine cones and discuss his/her observations. Be sure to look to see if you can locate a seedpod. Discuss the seed and compare and contrast to other seeds that your child has experienced. (You will have to provide some other seeds if your child has few or no prior experiences with seeds.) To extend the activity, work with your child to make pájaro (bird) creations using the pine cones. Provide your child with construction paper, child safety scissors, glue, crayons, string, watercolor markers, felt and other material scraps, buttons, sequins, ribbon scraps, etc. Ask your child to think of a way to make a "pájaro" representation using the pine cone. Using the pine cone as the main portion of the "pájaro" body, work with your child to add eyes, feathers and wings, a beak, legs, feet, and other features as desired by your child. (Hint: a pine cone turned on its largest end can be made into an owl-like bird; a thin, elongated pine turned on its side can be used to make a flying bird; and a fat pine cone can be turned on its side to create a turkey-like bird.) Use string or decorative ribbon to hang the bird creations in your child's room or some other special place.

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