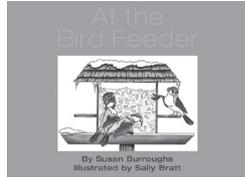


# AT THE BIRDFEEDER

By – Susan Burroughs  
 Illustrated by – Sally Bratt  
 Set 1 – 43 words

## Building Anticipation – Setting the Context

Go outside and sit very quietly for a few minutes. Can you hear birds? Can you see birds? Count the number of birds you see or hear. Record the number on a piece of paper. In the classroom, compare the children’s tallies and list the kinds of birds they saw and heard. How many birds did you see altogether?



Introduce the book and guide the children through a book-walk. Before they start reading, focus the children’s attention on strategies they can use when they come to an unknown word.

## Discussion – Book Talk – Book Talk

What reading strategy did you use when you came to a difficult word?

What happened when the blue jay came to the bird feeder? Why do you think all the little birds flew away? What do birds like to eat? How else might someone feed the birds?

## Creative Response – Independent Practice

Children can:

- draw a picture of a bird at a bird feeder. Under the picture, write a sentence such as, “Here is a \_\_\_\_\_ at the bird feeder.”

- use the pattern established in *At the Bird Feeder* to create their own counting book about objects of their choice.
- make two finger puppets and learn this rhyme:

Two little dickey birds sat upon a wall,  
 One named Peter, one named Paul,  
 Fly away Peter, fly away Paul,  
 Come back Peter, come back Paul,  
 Fly away, fly away, fly away all.

- repeat the rhyme, accompanying it with actions using the finger puppets. Hide first one finger, then the other. Bring one finger back, then the other.
- create a mural showing a park with birds flying, eating, swimming on a pond, and so on. Label the names of the birds.
- match the pictures to the words, complete the sentence “There are \_\_\_ birds at the birdfeeder.” and draw the number of birds they choose on the reproducible master

## Read-Aloud Connections

*Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990.

- Visiting the bird feeder may be dangerous when cats are around!

*Bird Feeder Banquet* by Michael Martchenko. Annick Press, 1990.

- Birds are feasting in this picture book.

*Have You Seen Birds?* by Joanne Oppenheim and Barbara Reid. Scholastic Canada, 1986.

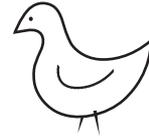
- Plasticine art illustrates this book about birds.

Learning About Language - Focused Teaching		
High Frequency Words	at, the	Practice writing “at” and “the” on an erasable board.
Letters and Letter Clusters	a — at f — four, five, feeder	
Rhymes and Word Families	at, cat, hat, fat	Manipulate movable letters to make new words containing the rime at (e.g., cat, bat, that). Copy them on to a list for reference.
Word Endings	s — birds	Discuss what it means when an s is added at the end of certain words.

# Reproducible Master - At the Birdfeeder

Match the words with the correct picture.

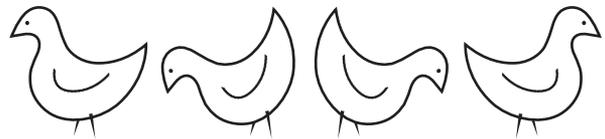
three birds



two birds



one bird



four birds



Complete the sentence and draw the picture.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ birds at the birdfeeder.