

# Gardening

**More science:** Let each child fill a plastic cup with soil and plant grass seed. Use round stickers to let each child create a face for his cup. As the seeds grow, the children can give their new "friend" a haircut.

■ Cindy Winther, Oxford, MI

3+

## Seed Match-Up

### Science skills

*Children make observations and classify seeds*

### Materials

A variety of seed packages  
Glue

Index cards

### What to do

1. Remove the seeds from one of the packages and glue a few seeds onto an index card.
2. Glue the front cover of the seed package to another index card.
3. Repeat for each type of seed and seed package to make matching pairs. Allow the children to examine the seeds closely, and show the children the pictures on the packets. Talk about how each seed grows into the plant pictured on the packet.
4. After the cards dry, mix up the pairs and play matching games.

ProFilePlanner.com

■ Laura Claire-Gremett, San Jose, CA

3+

## Spring

### Science skills

*Children observe and make predictions and inferences.*

### Materials

Resealable plastic bags  
Soil

Grass seed  
Water

### What to do

1. Fill two resealable plastic bags with a generous amount of soil.
2. Add a handful of grass seed and some water so the soil is moist but not soaked.

# Gardening

the continued "rain" will keep the soil wet.

7. Watch the bags to see which bag sprouts the seeds first. Encourage the children to try to explain why the seeds emerge first in the bag with southern exposure.

■ Ingelore Mix, Massapequa, NY

## Sprout Garden

3+

### Science skills

*Children observe seeds and sprouts and are encouraged to ask questions about nature.*

### Materials

Ice cube tray(s)  
Water

Assortment of beans  
Permanent marker

### What to do

1. Encourage families to send in a bean.
2. Mark one child's name per cell on the ice tray on the inside of the cell so the name is visible.
3. Let each child place his bean in the cell.
4. When the tray is full, move it to a place in the classroom that receives light.
5. Ask the children to fill their bean cells with water.
6. Observe the growth and perhaps have a race to see which beans sprout fastest.
7. Keep the cells full of water 24 hours a day so they don't dry up. You may have to fill the cells every day as the beans grow.
8. Plant the sprouts in a garden.

■ Dani Rosensteel, Payson, AZ

## Little Gardeners

3+

### Science skills

*Children observe growing plants over many months and are encouraged to ask questions about nature.*