

Gardening

3+

Plant a Bulb

Science skills

The children observe as bulbs grow and flower.

Materials

Flower pots, clay or plastic, one for each child
Small jars of acrylic paint
Small paintbrushes (watercolor brushes are fine)
Tulip bulbs, one for each child, plus two extras
Potting soil

Acrylic sealant, if pots are clay, available at art or paint stores
Permanent marker
Trowels or large spoons
Gardening gloves, optional

What to do

1. If you are using clay flowerpots, spray them with the sealant the day before doing this project.
2. In small groups, let the children paint their flowerpots with the acrylic paint. Use the permanent markers to write their names on the pots. Acrylic paint is water soluble so the brushes can be cleaned with water. Allow the pots to dry overnight.
3. Show the children pictures of flowering bulbs or read them a related book.
4. Give each child a bulb. Show the children where the roots come out of the bulb and out of which end the flower will grow.
5. In small groups, let each child plant his bulb in his flowerpot, using the potting soil and trowels or spoons.
6. Plant the two extra bulbs in separate pots.
7. Let the children water their bulbs and put them in a sunny place in your classroom.
8. Ask the children what the bulbs need to grow. Tell them you are going to do an experiment with one of the bulbs by putting it in a closet to see what will happen. Encourage the children to hypothesize what will happen to the bulb in the closet.
9. Mark on your class calendar the day that you planted the bulbs and each day count how many days it has been since.
10. Ask the children to water their bulbs regularly, once a week is probably fine.
11. When the bulbs begin to sprout, note which bulbs are sprouting. Are they all? Why or why not?
12. Compare the children's bulbs with the bulb in the closet.
13. Once they begin to sprout, graph each day how far the bulbs grow.
14. Just before the bulbs flower, send them home with the children.

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Gardening

My Garden Pocket

4+

Science skills

Children practice observation and fine motor skills.

Materials

Books about gardening

Paper plates

Assorted colors of textured papers

Hole punch

Magazine clippings of flowers, insects,
gardening tools and people gardening

Variety of gardening tools

Scissors

Glue

Paper curling ribbon, one yard per child

Unwrapped crayons

Craft sticks, 1/2" (13 mm) wide, 3 per child

What to do

1. Invite children to look at gardening books and to handle a variety of gardening tools. The tools could include a shovel, rake and digging fork.
2. Discuss the process of planting seeds and welcome children's comments about what they may already know about gardening.
3. To make the paper garden pockets, give each child one whole paper plate and one paper plate that has been cut in half.
4. Children may select several unwrapped crayons. Encourage them to illustrate the sky on the whole paper plate and to rub shades of soil and grass on their half paper plates.
5. Children place the two plates together and, using a hole punch, punch eight holes around the paper plates (or teachers may want to have holes already pre-punched).
6. Use the curling ribbon and lace through the two paper plates. Tie the two ribbons together.
7. Children may design their own paper flowers from a variety of textured papers or use the illustrated clippings from the magazines. The flowers and/or clippings can be affixed to craft

