

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

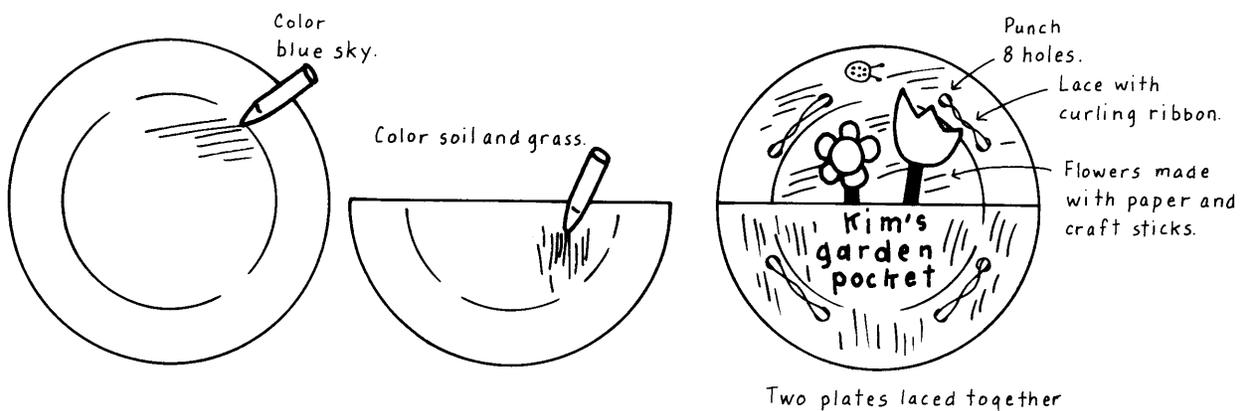
Paper curling ribbon, one yard per child

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



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sticks using tape or glue. The children may color the craft sticks to represent the stems of plants. Children may want to embellish their stems with textured leaves (rubblings from leaves) and maybe add a friendly ladybug.

8. Organize and plant paper flowers between the two paper plates. Create garden stories, and please touch the flowers!

More to do

Math: Make a graphing chart with the following column headings: flowers, bugs, leaves. Count the flowers, bugs and leaves in each garden pocket and mark the appropriate column with the correct number of each item. How many flowers, bugs, leaves can you count?

Storytelling: Invite children to create a story garland. Document children's stories onto cut-out flower shapes and let the children use tape, glue, string or yarn to connect the flowers together. Display the garland across the classroom window.

Related books and recording

Creepy Crawlies by Cathy Kilpatrick

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert.

Linnea's Windowsill Garden by Christina Bjork

"Rain" words and music by Miss Jackie

■ Jill Loveless, Lee's Summit, MO

4+

Butterfly Garden

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Science skills

In this delightful outdoor activity, children use their creativity and practice social development.

Materials

Soil

Plastic cups

Sunny windowsill

Several of the following seeds: bee balm, foxglove, heliotrope, lilac, lupine, morning glory, nasturtium, pansy, Queen Anne's Lace, snapdragon, sunflower, sweet William, viburnum, yarrow

What to do

1. Discuss butterflies and describe the types of flowers that attract them. Tell the children that butterflies need a natural, chemical-free environment with a little shelter. A commercial butterfly house or a trellis with vines, such as morning glory, may be a shelter for a butterfly.
2. Decide on a place for your butterfly garden. It can be an established garden site, a window box or hanging planters. Let the children help select the place and design the garden, choosing plants in different colors, scents and heights. Include a bench or other seating if possible