

Gardening

More to do

Games: Create seed puzzles by gluing the picture from a seed packet on one end of a 4" x 6" (10 cm x 15 cm) piece of poster board. On the other end glue the seeds. Cut each card in half with a distinct shape pattern to create a set of puzzles. Match up the seeds with their plants.

Snack: Eat a seed snack. Try sunflower seeds, sesame seed and poppy seed crackers. ■ Bake poppy seed muffins.

Related poem

Say the following poem and perform the actions:

Here is the seed, down in the ground, waiting here to grow (curl up in a ball on the floor)

First comes the rain (reach arms up and wiggle fingers down to floor)

Then comes the sun (reach arms up with hands in a circle)

Then it can grow and grow. (slowly rise from the floor and spread out arms)

■ Sandra Gratiyas, Perkasio, PA

4+

Sprouts and Roots

Science skills

Through observation, children are encouraged to ask questions about nature.

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Materials

A variety of seeds
Empty glass jar
Sponge
Cups
Potting soil
Shovels
A sunny window

What to do

1. Dampen the sponge and place it in the bottom of the glass jar.
2. Place the seeds between the glass and the sponge.
3. Plant leftover seeds in cups filled with potting soil, one for each child. Water them and place them in a sunny spot.



Gardening

4. Children can observe and compare the sprouts in the soil and the roots in the glass jar.
5. Keep both soil and sponge moist.

More to do

Games: What seed is this? Fold a piece of 18" x 24" (45 cm x 60 cm) poster board in half lengthwise. Cut the top half into sections, and glue seeds on top. Glue the corresponding seed packet to the bottom half.

Related books

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Kraus

Pumpkin Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington

Teresa J. Nos, Baltimore, MD

Fun With Flowers

4+

Science skills

Children are encouraged to make observations and ask questions about nature.

Materials

Fresh flowers

Borax

Shallow box with lid

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Glass or plastic vases

What to do

1. Discuss with the children the fact that many people make floral arrangements with fresh flowers. A florist would be a good guest, or make a trip to a flower shop.
2. Ask the children to help you arrange fresh flowers in one of the plastic containers. While you are arranging the flowers, talk about the different shapes and colors. Encourage the children to discuss different aspects of the arrangement they like and why they have chosen to arrange the flowers in a particular way.
3. Questions to spark discussion with the children while they are arranging:
Are the flowers various shapes? What kinds of shapes do you see? Are the stems of some of the flowers too long or too short? Would you like help cutting some of the stems so they fit better into the vases? What color flowers are you placing together?
4. You can also dry fresh flowers at room temperature and use them for dried arrangements at other times of the year. If the children's age and abilities permit, have them mix together 1 cup (250 ml) borax and 2 cups (500 ml) oatmeal in a bowl. Pour half of the mixture into a shallow box, making a thin layer.
5. Place an assortment of flowers face down on the mixture in the box.
6. Help the children pour the remaining mixture over the flowers and cover with a lid.