



Spring Unit for Toddlers

Major Concepts, Questions & Goals	Community/ Home visits	Large and Small Group Activities	Choices and Songs	Books and Objects to Explore
<p>What is a seed? What does it look like?</p> <p>What do seeds become? Do different seeds become different things?</p> <p>What parts of a plant come from a seed? What does a seed look like as it grows?</p> <p>How else can we grow things?</p>	<p>Seed Walk - Take a walk outside and look for seeds. You might find acorns (or just the caps) hickory nuts or dandelions already gone to seed.</p> <p>Kitchen Seed Hunt - What seeds can you find in the kitchen? Possibilities include beans, lentils, pumpkin seeds, fruit seeds, avocado pits, etc.</p> <p>Learning Lab links: https://learninglab.si.edu/search?st=seeds&item_type=smithsonian&st_op=and (lots of images of different seeds) https://learninglab.si.edu/resources/view/4396818 (funny beet man)</p>	<p>Sprout beans - lay beans (or other seeds you can find) on a wet paper towel. Place the towel in a plastic bag or make sure to keep it moist as seeds sprout.</p> <p>Plant "Seeds" - make or find large round stones or pebbles. Show your dragonfly how to poke a hole and drop the seed in.</p> <p>Sprout an Avocado - push 3 toothpicks into the side of an avocado pit. Suspend it in a jar of water so the bottom is always covered. Wait for sprouts.</p> <p>Plant a seed - Plant any seeds you have laying around! Yogurt containers and paper towel tubes make great seed starters.</p>	<p>"A seed needs" http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songs/poems22.html (lots of gardening songs at this link)</p> <p>5 little flowers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trmZb6Ss33g</p> <p>The gardener plants the seeds https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6bPXStoHQ4</p>	<p>The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls6wTeT2cKA</p> <p>A Seed is Sleepy by Diana Hutts Alston Read on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_vElnekJzI</p> <p>Plant the Tiny Seed by Christie Matheson https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHRDM5nb8Ks</p>



Kitchen Seed Hunt

Even if you are not a gardener you likely have lots of seeds in your kitchen! Dried beans, lentils, avocado pits, and fruits all are or have seeds! This link show children finding the seeds in fruits. Using tweezers to pull off small seeds is also a great fine motor activity.

<https://www.mamashappyhive.com/fruit-science-for-kids/>

Sprout Seeds

Many of your dried seed foods (like lentils and beans) as well as seeds you find in fruits will still sprout! You can encourage the seeds to sprout by keeping them moist on a wet paper towel. The classic way to do this is place a bean (or 2) in a damp folded paper towel inside plastic sandwich bag and then tape it to a window. You can also place the bean and paper towel into a plastic container like this link

<https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/kids-science-growing-seeds/>

or leave them out on a tray like this link.

<https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/sprouting-seeds-preschool-botany/>

This link also shows how many seeds might be around that you could sprout.

Plant "Seeds" Sensory bin

Find (or make) some medium sized pebbles (salt flour and water dough is great for this :

<https://www.learning4kids.net/2012/12/09/how-to-make-salt-dough-recipe/>). Either outside or in a bin with a bit of dirt show your child how you can poke a hole place the seed in and cover it back up. They can then dig them up and replant over and over again.

Sprout an Avocado Pit

Most Avocado pits will sprout and begin growing again if given the right set up. They are also large enough to be part of a "planting" sensory bin like above. This link shows how you can set an avocado pit up to sprout and grow. It really works, my mom once kept one going for 3 years (eventually she planted it in a pot).

<https://inhabitat.com/how-to-grow-an-avocado-tree-from-an-avocado-pit/>



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Grow your Kitchen Waste

Many kitchen scraps will begin regrowing if you place them in water or replant them in soil. Usually this is not a practical way to get more food from them but it is a fun way to show you child that our foods are alive and growing. This link has lots of ideas although most of them are probably not practical ways to start a garden they are fun ways to explore growing foods.

<https://www.diyrcrafts.com/4732/repurpose/25-foods-can-re-grow-kitchen-scrap>

Plant Real Seeds

Some of you might be either planting or considering starting your spring garden. I definitely encourage you to give it a try and let me know if you have any questions about gardening with kids. I'm getting my own garden going right now and would love to offer advice if anyone needs it!