

Planting Seeds to Literacy

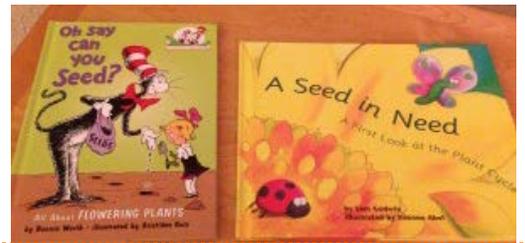
Growing Seeds

Gather a few simple supplies:
Several tall, clear plastic containers/cups
Paper towels
Cotton balls
Glue
Spray bottle with water
Seeds



Ask your children to pick the 3 seeds they want to plant in their container and then help lay them out so they can observe them. Talk about the different sizes, shapes, colours, and even texture of the seeds. Find a container with a lid if you're doing this with toddlers!

Next, fold paper towel in half and placed three dots of glue a couple inches from the bottom of the paper towel. Then glue a seed (or two) on each one of the glue dots to prevent the seeds from falling to the bottom of the container. After allowing the glue to dry a little, place their paper towels in the plastic containers. Thoroughly mist the paper towel and add moistened cotton balls to help hold the paper towel in place. Finally, snap on the lid, label the seeds, and the planting date. After two weeks the seedlings may become too tall for the container so remove the lids. Continue to check and mist the seedlings every morning. You can poke several drainage holes in the bottom with a nail and gently removed the paper towel and cotton balls before adding soil.



Reading About Growing

Cat in the Hat takes children on a journey of the life cycle of a plant from seed to flower. Readers learn why plants are important, how a seed turns into a plant and how flowers are pollinated. A Seed in Need is about a ladybug and a snail which walks readers through the plant's life cycle. Bright watercolour pictures make this book very engaging.

Plant Book

Take pictures of your planting process and then of your seeds every week after. With your child use a small photo album to create a story book about their experience and the growing process. Add their words about it to the pages.



Vegetable Tasting Center

Cut small piece of vegetables, raw and cooked; allow your child to cut them with a butter knife or dull cutting utensil. Encourage children to taste and compare different vegetables; then compare them to the same vegetable cooked.

Vegetable Prints

Cut a vegetable in half (potato, carrot, broccoli, corn on the cob), dip into paint and print on paper. Talk about the different prints and what they look like.

Seed Sorting

In a vegetable tray tape down empty seed packets on the outer sections of the tray; for younger children tape one seed on the packet as a sample. Then place the mixture of seeds in the middle for your child to sort, matching the seed with the picture of the vegetable. You can use tongs to pick up the seeds to work on fine motor development. Talk with you child about the different types of seeds; size, shape, colour, texture.



Coloured Celery Stalk

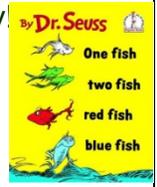
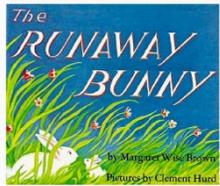
Prepare two plastic cups, half fill each cup with water and a few drops of food colouring; one red and one blue. Cut up the middle of leafy celery stalk. Put half of the celery stalk on the blue cup and the other half in red cup. Place in a warm, light place.

Look at the celery after an hour. What has happened to the stalk?

After you leave it overnight what do the leaves look like now? It will show how water travels through the stalk and into its leaves. Each vessel leads to a different part of the plant, half the leaves turn blue and half the leaves turn red.



March Literacy Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Talk about the weather outdoors and what you see out the window.	Dr. Seuss's Birthday 	Make a fish gluing tissue paper on a plastic bottle. 	Talk about what colour fish are, where they live, what they eat and sound they make (fishy lips).	Make a fish snack with fishy crackers. 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Point out things that start with the letter 'Ff', like frog, face, farm, finger, float, funny	Try a new food that begins with F like figs, feta, french toast or fish.	Think of some words that rhyme together; fish/dish, red/bed, log/hog, meat/treat, etc.	Read three books today, one in the morning, afternoon and at bedtime.	Have an indoor picnic today with your favourite foods, invite a friend to come.	It's Ezra Jack Keats birthday today. Read one of his classics like <i>A Snowy Day</i> or <i>Hi, Cat!</i>	Visit your local library to borrow some new books.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Turn off the lights and read some books with a flashlight.	Cut up some green food to have for snack. 	Look for things that are green around your house, count how many you find.	Using paint explore what colours you mix together to make green then create your own St. Patrick's Day picture.	 Dress all in green!	Draw a picture of your favourite living creature or plant.	Plant a seed and talk about how it will grow. 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
First Day of Spring! Celebrate this day by going on a nature walk and looking for signs of spring with your child.	Take a picture of your planted seed every couple weeks when you see changes and create a story book about your growing plant.	Move like an animal to music; hop like a bunny, fly like a bird, slither like a snake, etc.	Make an animal paper plate mask. 	Bunny Pokey Sung to: "Hokey Pokey" You put your bunny ears in (hands on head to make ears) You put your bunny ears out. You put your bunny ears in. And you shake them all about. You do the Bunny Pokey And hop yourself around, That's what it's all about! Verses: "bunny nose in, bunny tail in, paws in"	Talk about what you are going to do over the week-end and who you are going to see.	Read a bunny story! 
27	28	29	30	31		
	Draw a picture of what you enjoyed on the week-end.	Measure out the ingredients and make your favourite colour of playdough.	Count how many steps it takes to go from one room to the next when moving through the house.	What colour are you wearing today? Look for other things that are the same colour.		