

Activities Curriculum Plan for Early Years Foundation Stage - How does your garden grow?

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- **Adult Led Focus** - Use Jasper's Beanstalk to talk about how Jasper is feeling at different parts of the story e.g. happy, bored and excited.
- **Adult Led Focus** - Read 'Titch' by Pat Hutchins and discuss the character's feelings.
- **Indoor Continuous** - Encourage the children to work together in teams to create beanstalks or tall sunflowers in the block/construction area.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Set up a Garden Centre Role Play Area for the children to use.

Communication & Language

- **Adult Led Focus** - Watch a Bean Time-Lapse Video and talk about what the children can see happening as the plant grows and changes.
- **Adult Led Focus** - Talk about the life cycle of a bean or a sunflower. Encourage children to talk about what they can see and their own experiences of growing plants.
- **Indoor Continuous** - Create a special decorated chair with the children. This then becomes a special storytelling chair for the children to retell stories to each other, such as 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen, or 'Oliver's Vegetables' by Vivian French.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Have Role Play Masks and props from the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk' available. Encourage the children to retell the story.

Physical Development

- **Adult Led Focus** - Re-enact the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk' with the children and encourage them to experiment with different ways of moving.
- **Adult Led Focus** - Cut up some different fruit and vegetables with the children to explore where seeds come from. The seeds could then be dried and planted!
- **Indoor Continuous** - Create some salt dough seed decorations. Roll out some salt dough, cut out a shape using a cookie cutter and then press seeds into the dough for decorations.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Encourage the children to plant some seeds in some pots or in the outside area. Encourage them to practise their fine motor skills to sprinkle or push the seeds and bulbs into the soil.

Literacy

- **Adult Led Focus** - Encourage children to write a diary as their seeds grow.
- **Indoor Continuous** - Provide bean and flower shaped paper/booklets for the children to use.
- **Indoor Continuous** - In the reading area, put a selection of spring-themed resources and stories.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Encourage children to write labels for different seeds planted in a growing area. Laminate the labels and add to the area using lolly sticks.

Mathematics

- **Adult Led Focus** - Look at different shapes, sizes and colours of seeds. Encourage the children to talk about what they see.
- **Adult Led Focus** - Grow plants to measure and compare.
- **Indoor Continuous** - Provide a Garden Centre Role Play Area and label the items for sale with price labels. The children could then use toy or even real coins to pay for the items.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Print out Numbers 0-20 from this sunflower-themed resource. Ask the children to order them on a washing line outside.

Understand the World

- **Adult Led Focus** - Encourage the children to plant their own seeds and to observe the plants as they grow.
- **Adult Focus** - Look at some different shapes and sizes of seeds and what they grow into.
- **Indoor Continuous** - Use a paint/drawing program on the IWB for children to draw pictures of the life cycle of a bean or sunflower.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Encourage children to use a digital camera to record their findings about different seeds and plants growing in an outside area.

Expressive Arts & Design

- **Adult Led Focus** - Encourage the children to draw or paint pictures of their own magical seeds or plants.
- **Indoor Continuous** - Have a range of junk modelling materials available for children to create their own plants and flowers. Pipe cleaners could also be used.
- **Outdoor Continuous** - Try painting with natural objects instead of paintbrushes! Encourage the children to explore using sticks or leaves to create marks and patterns.