

PRESCHOOL

Week

8

Smart Activities



SMART CHOICE. SMARTER CHILD.®

Coffee Filter Flowers

Materials: coffee filters, crayon or markers, glue, construction paper, large buttons

Instructions:

1. Encourage your child to make a flower using the materials provided.
2. Encourage use of the coffee filter as the petal of the flower and a large button as the seed of the flower.
3. Encourage child to decorate the petals (coffee filter) and use the construction paper to create a stem and leaves or crayons.



Garden Sensory Box

Materials: container, soil, cups, shovels, plants (real or fake)

Instructions:

1. Fill container with soil and various materials including plants, tools, etc.
2. Encourage your child to pretend to make their own garden in the container using the materials provided.
3. Encourage creativity and discussion about planting a real garden. Add different materials to add variety.



Growing Plants and Vegetables

Materials: internet access, website: <https://youtu.be/I8-WsvzDY8>

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

1. View the video with your child.
2. Discuss the steps that go into planting a garden and what kind of plants and vegetables were planted. Also, ask your child what he/she would like to plant in a garden?



Lima Bean Planting

Materials: dry lima beans, cotton balls, small plastic storage bags, bowl of water

Instructions:

1. Encourage your child to dip cotton balls in water. Use enough cotton balls to cover the bottom of the plastic bag.
2. Have your child add cotton balls to bag along with dry lima beans. Beans need room to grow so no more than about 4-5 beans per bag.
3. Close plastic bags and tape to a window or a place with lots of sunlight.
4. Observe the bean sprout growing over time.



Ladybug Garden Rocks

Materials: rocks, paint, paintbrushes, markers

Instructions:

1. Together with your child find various sizes of rocks in your yard or neighborhood.
2. Wash and dry rocks that will be used.
3. Encourage your child to decorate the rocks to look like ladybugs. Try decorating rocks that look like other insects found in gardens.



How Does a Seed Become a Plant?

Materials: internet access, website:
<https://youtu.be/tkFPyue5X3Q>

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

1. View the video with your child.
2. Discuss the steps a seed must go through to become a plant, what things it needs, and how we use the foods produced.



Cupcake Liner Flowers

Materials: paper cupcake liners, construction paper, glue, crayons, various art materials

Instructions:

1. Encourage child to decorate the middle of the cupcake liners with various art materials.
2. Use either crayons or popsicle sticks to make stems and leaves for flowers.
3. Apply flower creation to construction paper.



Flower Observation

Materials: small notepad, writing materials

Instructions:

1. Encourage your child to look around neighborhood or yard for various flowers.
2. Ask your child to draw what they see using the notepad and writing materials.
3. Encourage conversation about the types of flowers, plants, and things you all may see.



We Plant a Seed

by Sharon Gordon

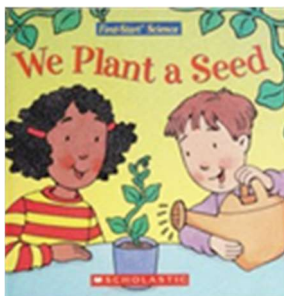
Materials: internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/zxl6Kiy7NPI>

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

1. Watch the read aloud book with your child.
2. Encourage discussion about what the children did in the story, what kind of seed they planted, and what the result was.



Flowers with Forks

Materials: paint, paper, forks, water

Instructions:

1. Encourage your child to paint various flowers using the paint colors and plastic forks provided.
2. Encourage discussion about different parts of the flower including the stem and leaves.



Seed Exploration

Materials: various seeds, containers

Instructions:

1. Gather various seeds and beans.
2. Encourage your child to explore the seeds.
3. Encourage discussion about what kinds of seeds there are, their textures, smells, and what kind of foods/flowers they would produce.



The Very Quiet Cricket

by Eric Carle

Materials: internet access, website:

<https://youtu.be/YdiGEjz5b0Q>

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

1. View and listen to the read aloud book with your child.
2. Encourage discussion about the insects seen in the book, the sounds they made, and where they live.



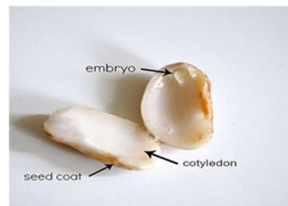
Bean Dissection Observation

Materials: dry large beans (kidney, pinto, or lima), water, magnifying glass, notepad, crayons

Preparation: Soak beans of choice for 24-hours.

Instructions:

1. Encourage your child to pick up soaked bean and rub in between fingers. Discuss texture of beans and physical characteristics.
2. Encourage child to split bean in two pieces. Encourage discussion about what the inside of the bean looks like.
3. Record observation using notepad and crayons.



Garden Shop Set-Up

Materials: boxes, sheets, artificial flowers, dramatic play materials

Instructions:

1. Encourage your child to create their own garden shop. In this shop, he/she can sell whatever they want (flowers, seeds, vegetables).
2. Pretend to shop in the garden shop and pay for things. Allow your child to do the same. Encourage participation from the entire family.



The Tiny Seed

by Eric Carle

Materials: internet access, website:

https://youtu.be/I_A_e6h-DhU

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

1. Listen to and view the read aloud book with your child.
2. Encourage discussion about the different seasons shown in the story, colors that were shown, and what happened to the flower during each season.

