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Preschool Theme Kits

GROWING THINGS



FOR YOU: a copy of these activities
is available in back of this notebook.

BOX CONTENTS

BOOKS

**The Seasons of Arnold's
Apple Tree**

Gail Gibbons

Flower Garden

Eve Bunting

Jack's Garden

Henry Cole

Vegetable Garden

Douglas Florian

This Year's Garden

Cynthia Rylant

Titch

Pat Hutchins

Eating the Alphabet

Lois Ehlert

**The Carrot Seed (Book
with CD)**

Ruth Krauss

Growing Vegetable Soup

Lois Ehlert

DVD

**Franklin Plants a Tree in
Franklin Goes to Camp**

TOY

Apple Life Cycle Mitt

ADULT RESOURCES

**Green Thumbs : a Kid's
Activity Guide to Indoor and
Outdoor Gardening**

Laurie Carlson

ACTIVITY NOTEBOOK

**BEYOND THE KITS
STORYTIME HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the *Growing Things* Theme Kit. Our target age group is 2 to 5 year olds but we have included at least one board book for babies to use. All these books read aloud well, and there are activities, finger plays, and teacher guides to help you. Also, take a look at the general information sheet on the inside cover of this notebook. ENJOY!

Related Activities

-Fun and Games-

GROWING CUCUMBER PLANTS **

You can grow cucumber plants indoors, after reading the books *Vegetable Garden* and/or *Growing Vegetable Soup*. You'll need paper towels, small plastic bags with a zipper seal and cucumber seeds. Have each child dampen the paper towel and place it into a plastic bag, with his or her name on it. Pour out excess water to prevent rot. Now add a seed and seal. Pin the bags on a wall and watch them grow. You can transplant them into individual cups: be sure not to overwater the seedlings. Send them home to be planted outdoors.



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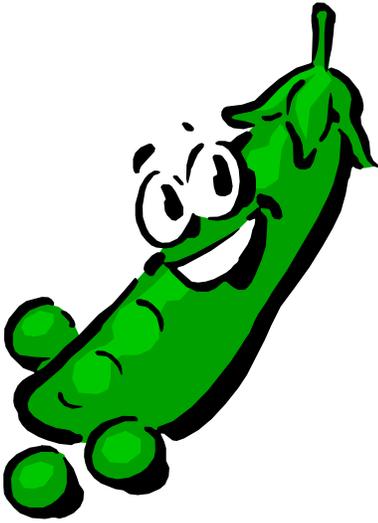
APPLE LIFE CYCLE MITT

Line up the five removable stages in any order. Put on the mitt. Ask the children how the apple tree begins (seed). Have a child attach to the first finger. Which comes next? Children can take turns putting up the stages and then do it on their own. Take a walk in your yard, or around the block. Can you see any fruit trees? Talk about what part of the cycle they are in. Read *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* and take the walk. Talk about what stage the trees are in. You can take a fall or winter "growing things" walk too. Often you can see seed pods on deciduous and evergreen trees (pine cones). In the Northwest, many plants stay green, although they don't grow or bloom in the colder seasons.

MAKING VEGETABLE SOUP

After reading *Growing Vegetable Soup* you can make soup too! Let the children wash 5-8 vegetables, then chop them and put in water to cover. Bring to boil, add bouillion (if you have it) and other herbs for seasoning.

Let simmer 20-30 minutes. Add rice or noodles 15 minutes before finish. Cool slightly and serve with bread and butter or crackers.



VEGETABLE VOTE **

After sharing **Vegetable Garden**, go back through the pictures and have the children name the vegetables as you point to them. On a piece of paper, print the names of the vegetables, drawing a picture next to each one (it doesn't have to be a work of art!) Ask each child to vote for his or her two favorite vegetables. With the children, count the number of votes for each. Discuss which were the favorites and which were the least favorite. Why?

ADULT RESOURCE: Green Thumbs : a Kid's Activity Guide to Indoor and Outdoor Gardening

You can garden year-round using this resource, with simple items you have on hand. There is a chapter called *Tasty Treats*, which tells you how to grow bean sprouts and gives a recipe to use them in. Also included is a recipe for carrot cake, flower petal candy (!), and sun tea. You can make an herbal garden with egg cartons and seeds, for Mother's Day or any day. Another chapter, *Make and Do Projects* is full of simple, attractive projects with clear directions.

-Fingerplays and Action Rhymes-

TEN FAT PEAS

Ten fat peas in a pea pod pressed.
Make fists and bump them together
 One grew, two grew,
Raise one finger, then two
 So did all the rest.
Raise all fingers!
 They grew and they grew and they did not stop.
Hands over head, stretch up really, really tall
 Until one day the pod went POP!
Smack hands together!

FLOWERS**

Flowers grow like this (*cup hands*)
 Trees grow like this (*spread arms*)
 I grow just like that! (*Jump up*)

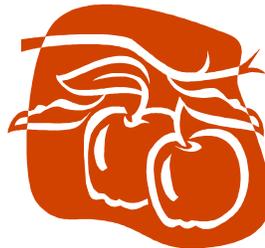
FLOWER GARDEN

Sung to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell

The farmer plants the seeds
 The farmer plants the seeds,
 Hi-ho, the derry-O, the farmer plants the seed.
 The rain begins to fall, etc.
 The sun begins to shine,
 The plants begin to grow,
 The buds open up
 The flowers smile at me

APPLE TREE

Way up high in the apple tree
 Two red apples smiled at me.
 I shook that tree as hard as I could!
 Down came the apples,
 Mmmmm they were good!



THIS IS THE WAY WE PLANT THE GARDEN

Sung to tune of Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush

This is the way we dig the garden
 Dig the garden, dig the garden.
 This is the way we dig the garden so early in the morning.
 This is the way we rake the garden...
 This is the way we plant the seeds...
 This is the way we water the seeds...
 This is the way we weed the garden...
 This is the way we pick the carrots
 ...(*or any vegetable you like!*)
 This is the way we wash the carrots...
 This is the way we eat the carrots...



Leader pushes each child down.
Make rain motions
Make circle with arms overhead
The children rise slowly
Children spread out arms
Everyone smiles.

Stretch up, with arms over head
Make two fists, over head
Shake the trunk of the tree!

Bring fists down to the floor.
Pretend to take a bite, and rub your tummy – mmmm!

How You Can Help

- Use and return kits promptly so that they are available for others.
- Please check box contents before returning.
- Do not use the book drop. Please return kits inside an open library.