

Dramatic Play Plan

Garden

MATERIALS

For real seed planting:

- ✓ Grass seeds
- ✓ Seed packets
- ✓ Small paper cups to plant seeds in
- ✓ Soil

For dramatic play:

- ✓ Flower seed packets
- ✓ Large box filled with dirt*
- ✓ Shovels
- ✓ Gardening tools
- ✓ Watering cans
- ✓ Garden gloves
- ✓ Pretend flowers
- ✓ Beans (in place of seeds to plant)
- ✓ Case
- ✓ Fake fruits & vegetables
- ✓ Cash Register

*=Not provided.

Use your imagination.

SETUP

1. Set up a real seed planting activity—have children tend to and water seeds planted earlier in week
2. Set up a play garden area
3. Designate the garden store area with respecting materials

STATIONS:

- Gardeners
- Garden Produce Sellers
- Customers

***Intro:** “Today we’re going to work in a garden and plant flowers. We’ll need gardeners who plant the seeds and watch them grow, garden produce sellers who sell seeds and plants and customers who buy the seeds and plants.”*

***Seed Planting Activity:** “We’re also going to be planting some real seeds and watching them to see how they grow. Everyone is going to get a plastic cup filled with soil and a seed that you are going to plant in the soil. I’m going to put your names on the cup and then put them over in the sunlight so that they can grow and make grass. Every day we are going to water them and check them to see if any grass has started to grow yet.”*

ACTIVITY 1 – DISCUSSION & REAL SEED PLANTING

Discuss what a garden is and what different things can grow in a garden. Discuss the process of how to plant and grow seeds.

- Allow children to plant their grass seeds
- Encourage discussion by labeling steps of planting the seeds using transition words “first, next, then, last”
- Talk about how to take care of plants after they grow
- EXPANSION: “What are some things that help plants to grow?”

ACTIVITY 2 – AT THE (PRETEND) GARDEN

- Gardeners choose the seeds to plant
- Spoon dirt and plant the “seeds” (beans) in the garden
- Water the seeds using the watering can
- Watch the flowers grow
- Pick the flowers and bring them to the garden store to sell with the rest of the seed packets, fruits, flowers and vegetables to customers
- EXPANSION: “Look at all of these beautiful flowers. What can we use them for?”

ACTIVITY 3 – AT THE GARDEN STORE

- Garden produce sellers sell seed packets, fruits, flowers and vegetables to customers
- Customers talk with the garden produce sellers to see what type of seeds to buy for different foods and flowers
- EXPANSION: “Can I plant this seed in a pot instead of a garden? How do I do that?”