

Communication and Language

- Put a number of different flowers (real or cut outs) on a **tray** and cover with a tea towel. Remove one and see if your child can remember which one has gone
- Read or watch '**Jack and the Beanstalk**' and act it out or retell it
- Read '**Oliver's Vegetables**'
- Read or watch '**The Enormous Turnip**'
- Make simple lolly stick **puppets** for the stories

Personal Social Emotional Development

- Look at magazines and ask children to cut out pictures of plants. Use these to make a **collage garden** and talk about what features you might like to have in a garden. What would make the perfect garden? One full of exciting adventures; a quiet peaceful space; colourful flowers; or maybe an exciting fountain? Encourage children to use their imaginations to create their own perfect garden.
- Talk** about how flowers make us feel
- Buy or make paper flowers as a **gift** for someone

Physical Development

- Read and/or retell the story of '**The Enormous Turnip**' and get the children to act it out with family members (heaving, pulling, falling over, etc).
- Read the story of '**Oliver's Vegetables**' by Alison Bartlett and Vivian French and use it as a prompt for talking about how our food is grown.
- Provide **salt dough/clay or playdough** for the children to mould into a tree, plant or flower. When it has dried the children could paint and decorate their creations.
- Paint broad beans** in different colours to make them look like 'magic beans'. Using tweezers encourage the children to move the beans from one pot to another. Add challenge to this activity by asking children to **sort** the beans according to colour or to count the correct number of beans into the different containers.

Literacy

- Learn the nursery rhyme '**Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary**'. Can the children find all of the **rhyming words**. Change the rhyming words to make a new rhyme, e.g. instead of "Silver bells and cockle shells," it could be "orange pigs in purple wigs and silly cats all in a row."
- Encourage children to design **seed packets** for your 'garden centre' using an envelope, and rice or lentils as the 'seeds.' The children could draw pictures on the envelopes and label with the type of seeds inside as well as the price.
- Provide wax crayons for the children to make leaf and bark **rubbings** with.

THINGS THAT GROW

Maths

- Plant **sunflower seeds** and grow them to measure and compare.
- Use different things to **measure** with, not just cm. For example, how many hands, fingers, stones, twigs high is the sunflower or tree?
- Make a **beanstalk height chart** to measure each other against.
- Provide plant pots and trowels of a variety of sizes to encourage the children to explore **capacity**.
- Provide real **plant pots with numbers** on, along with compost and trowels for the children to use to 'plant' the correct numbered flower in. Put different amounts of spots on each plant pot and children 'plant' the flower with the matching numeral.
- Provide a **Garden Centre Role Play Area** and label the items for sale with price labels.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Look at **Monet's** paintings of gardens and copy by using sponges to paint impressionist-style paintings.
- Design and make '**Fairy Gardens**' in bowls or baking trays.
- Use a variety of seeds to make a collage of '**Sunflowers**' by **Van Gogh** or other seed collages.
- Thicken paint** by adding flour and then apply the paint using fingers or lolly sticks to produce paintings in the style of Van Gogh.
- Provide fresh flowers for **observational drawing** and paintings.
- Use **junk modelling** so children make their own 3D beanstalks and flowers with.
- Provide a bed sheet and cuttings of natural materials to make **big art** with.
- Set up a **Florist Role Play Area**.

Understanding the World

- Go on a **plant and flower hunt** in the local area. Take photos of what you find. You could send your photos in to go on the gallery.
- Use the book 'Oliver's Vegetables' by Alison Bartlett and Vivian French to look at **how food grows**. Grow broad bean plants, sunflower seeds or cress with the children.
- Plant grass seeds** in seed trays and keep them under different conditions (light, dark, without water etc.)
- Set up a '**planting area**' outside. This could be done using a large bucket filled with compost.
- Explain the importance of **bees** and butterflies in pollinating plants
- Take **photos** of plants that are growing outside. Allow the children to zoom in and see the detail.
- Plant different plants through the year.