

Context: Gardening

Nursery
Age 3-4

Title: Growing flowers from seeds

Adult-initiated and supported

The children noticed the colourful flowers that have been growing in the parks and their gardens. From this we decided to plant our own flowers using a flower kit. Together we followed the instructions and put the soil discs into water. They soon expanded.

J: 'They have got bigger, they look like tea bags!'

C: 'They are now squishy, what do we do with them now Lucy?'



The children each chose a flower from the kit to plant and put the soil and the seeds in the pot.

J: 'They look like tiny cashew nuts.'

S: 'They are squiggly ones.'

E: 'I'm pushing them down with my finger.'

This activity prompted the children to talk about their other growing experiences.

S: 'I'm growing tomatoes and sunflowers in my garden.'

R: 'I'm growing some tomatoes in my house.'



This activity enabled the children to learn about the process of planting seeds. We will continue to learn more about how flowers grow. They were intrigued to find out what will happen to their plants.

J: 'Will it grow up to the ceiling?'

S: 'Nooo don't be silly J.'

C: 'I think it will grow as tall as me!'



Next steps

The children looked after the flowers e.g. giving them some water when they need it.





We then talked about what they will need to grow when we plant them outside.

J: *'you have to water them because otherwise they won't grow'*

C: *'they need sunlight and they need rain'*

A: *'yes they need water'*

J: *'do they need light from the ceilings?'*

C: *'no they need sunshine'*

J: *'oh and you need to plant them in the ground because they will grow up to the ceiling'*

C: *'yeah because their roots won't grow, you can't keep them inside forever'*

J: *'mine looks like a lily pad'*

N: *'look at mine, smell it, do you want to smell mine Lucy?'*

We then started to talk about how to keep them safe in the garden and what animals might eat the flowers.

J: *'slugs and an ant'*

C: *'and a ladybird and a grasshopper'*

A: *'a fox'*

J: *'not a fox, fox eat worms'*

A: *'no because the fox dig up holes in the garden'*



Possible future provision/next steps

When the plants were big enough we planted them out in the garden. The children filled a larger pot with soil. We then put the plants in carefully. This activity enabled the children to learn about how plants grow and how to look after them. These flowers are now part of our garden and we will continue to look after them.

Learning outcomes include (Development Matters, Understanding the World):

3 & 4 year olds: *Plant seeds and care for growing plants.*

Characteristics of effective teaching and learning – Creating and thinking critically: *Concentrate on achieving something that's important to them.*

Example from Atelier Nursery, Chippenham, Wiltshire