

# Science Stories

## Science to Go

### Seeds in Soil

#### READ ALOUD TIPS

#### FROM MISS RENEE

- Make reading fun - this shouldn't be a chore for you or your child
- Preview the book. Reading it to yourself lets you know what your in for and helps with reading aloud
- Read in manner you're comfortable with but make sure you read with expression. If you're not comfortable doing voices don't, but don't read as if the book is boring.
- It's okay to ask questions, talk about things or explore the pictures with your child while you're reading
- Just because you child isn't sitting with you or gets up to play doesn't mean they aren't listening, so keep reading. Of course if they've left the room or are being really loud while playing then you can stop.
- Participate in the activities with your child. Just because you're a grownup doesn't mean you can be silly and have fun!

#### SCIENCE TIPS

#### FROM MISS RENEE

- Be an active participant with your child
- Ask questions - it's okay not to know the answer, that's why you have a library.

### Booklist

#### Fiction:

Plant the Tiny Seed by Christie Matheson

Curious George Plants a Seed by H.A. Rey

Lola Plants a Garden by Anna McQuinn

Peppa Pig and the Vegetable Garden by Neville Astley

Curious George discovers Plants by H.A. Rey

#### Non-Fiction

A Seed is the Start by Melissa Stewart

From Seed to Plant by Gail Gibbons

Seeds by Steffi Cavell-Clarke

### Exploration Activity

#### What's Inside?

Materials: plastic sandwich bag, paper towel, water, seeds (generally bean seeds are best - easy to see, but sunflower seeds work too), knife, apple, strawberry

Optional tools: magnifying glass

The best way to explore seeds is first to find them? Using the apple and the strawberry have your kids find the seeds. Some seeds are inside and some seeds are outside. But what's inside a seed. Have your grownup carefully cut open a seed. What do you see? Does it look anything like the plant would? Seeds are what a plant starts like but they change as they grow, just like you. There's a better way to see inside a seed but it'll take some time.

1. Soak your paper towel and then squeeze out the excess water.
2. Place the towel inside the plastic bag so that it is relatively flat. Letting it bunch at the bottom is ok.
3. Place seeds in bag (try not to have them sitting in water so don't over water your paper towel)
4. Seal the bag partway.
5. Tape the bag to a window that gets some sun (but not all day sun)
6. Watch your seed every day - can you see the roots? Can you see the stem? Discuss what happens each day.



# Learning Activities

## Seed Sort

Materials: seeds in a variety of sizes and colors, large and small bowls

Have kids sort the seeds by size, shape and color. Ask questions like: what type of plant do you think grows from this seed? What color are the seeds? What shape? How would you plant these seeds?

## Seed Art

Materials: construction paper, glue, old seeds, markers

Have kids draw a picture (or print a premade one). Use the glue and seeds to fill in the pictures.

## Mystery Boxes

Materials: shoe box with holes cut into the top, leaves, roots, stems, branches, seeds, bark, acorns, flowers etc. (use natural items from your yard that are either already on the ground or items that its okay to pick), paper squares with pictures of the items you have collected.

First place one item into the box. Have the kids put their hands in to feel the item. Use the picture squares to identify the object. Ask questions like: What does it feel like? What shape do you feel? Is it large or small, soft or hard?

## Touch a Plant

Please make sure it is okay to touch the plant you are using! Make sure to watch for poison ivy

Materials: blindfold, backyard plants

Have child put on the blindfold, lead them to a plant to explore. Have them touch and explore the plant. Ask them: What does it feel like? Is it big? Can they feel anything tickly, pointy, soft or hard? Identifying the plant isn't as important as the exploration. Also talk about what it was like being blindfolded. Were you scared? How could you tell what things were?

## Adopt a Plant

Materials: string, popsicle stick, ruler, paper, pencils

Explore your backyard and pick a plant to adopt. Measure the plant - height width, draw a picture of the plant paying attention to details of the leaves, stem, flowers, colors of all parts, notice any insects, the ground around the plant and all. Visit your plant once a week or once a month and notice if there are any differences or changes to your plant. What are they - discuss them, why do they see those changes, what might be happening to the plant?

## Planting

Materials: seed pots, potting soil, seed packets (you can pick up a packet of seeds at the library by filling out a seed request form on our website), water

Plant seeds with kids. Fill the pots with soil, measure and make holes, drop seeds in, cover with soil and water. When plants are big enough move to your yard outside. (or you may wish to plant them directly outside and skip the pot).

## To Learn More

- Encyclopedia Britannica Kids - seeds  
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/seed/399591>
- KidsGardening.org  
<https://kidsgardening.org/big-seeds-for-little-hands/>
- Planet Natural: Kids Gardening  
<https://www.planetnatural.com/gardening-kids/>



# Tell Us Ticket

Please return this ticket to the library with your name and phone number and be entered into the end of summer raffle

I learned something new today



I had fun today



I enjoyed this activity



The Science to Go Sheet was easy to understand



Comment:

