

Keep this sheet.
Collect them all!



Explore your world with this Science-to-Go backpack



Books in this backpack

- **Gardening Lab for Kids**
by Renata Fossen Brown
- **My Garden**
by Kevin Henkes
- **One Bean**
by Anne F. Rockwell
- **Planting a Rainbow**
by Lois Ehlert
- **Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt**
by Kate Messner

Idea!

After reading one of the books, immediately open it again and go page by page, encouraging your child to tell you what was happening on each page.

More books
at your
library

Garbage Helps our Garden Grow. Linda Glaser. E635.0489
The Gardener. Sarah Stewart. E STEWART
Growing Vegetable Soup. Lois Ehlert. E EHLERT
How a Seed Grows. Helene J. Jordan. E582.0166
Plant Secrets. Emily Goodman. E 580

Local Connection

Visit a community garden or nursery together. Name the plants you recognize. Build vocabulary as you talk about the different shapes, sizes, colors and smells of the plants.



Good soil is essential for a productive garden. In this activity, your child will observe soil, discovering that it is a mixture of many different materials (roots, sticks, mulch, bugs, pebbles, sand, clay, etc.). How do they think soil is created?

What you need:

- A handful (or so) of soil
- Jar with lid
- Water

Try this:

1. Talk about soil with your child. What words do they know that mean the same thing? Gather a soil sample.
2. Dump the soil onto newspaper or another easily cleaned surface.
3. Ask your child if they can identify parts of the soil. Are there insects or worms? Stones or roots?
4. Use descriptive words and encourage your child to talk about what they see, smell and feel.
5. After they've gotten a chance to investigate, gather the soil back up into the jar.
6. What do they predict will happen if you add water?
7. Add water till the jar is 3/4 full. Screw on lid and shake up.
8. Put the jar on a shelf and leave to settle for an hour or more.
9. What happened? How are the layers of soil different? Invite your child to record the soil sample layers in the field notebook.

Adapted from "Science is Simple: Over 250 Activities for Preschoolers" by Peggy Ashbrook (2003).

Field Notebook

Add something to the field notebook!

For example: Encourage your child to draw a plant that they would like to have in their garden. Or make a map for a dream garden.

Rhyme

A Little Sun

A little sun
(hold arms above head)

A little rain
(wiggle fingers in the air
in a downward motion)

Now pull up all the weeds
(pretend to pull weeds)

Our flowers grow,
all in a row
(hold up all ten fingers
lined up like flowers)

From tiny little seeds.
(hold thumb and finger
to show size of seeds)