

Seed Hunt and Sort

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

FALL



WHAT'S THE Big Idea?

Cycles
Change over Time

Enduring Understandings

- All plants, wild and domestic, go through life cycles.
- Most plants reproduce through seeds.
- Many plants drop their seeds in late summer or fall so the seed will spend winter in the soil and sprout in the spring.
- Not all seeds look alike; each type of plant has a specific seed.
- Seeds have some similar qualities: seed coat, embryo, food storage.

Objectives

- Children understand that most plant life begins and ends with seeds.
- Children show interest and curiosity in discovering seeds.

Directions

It can be helpful for children to develop their “owl eyes” (see p.131) prior to beginning this experience.

1. Read books about seeds to children. Use the discussion questions to process the reading and gather information about seeds. Ask children what questions they have about seeds.
2. Take the children on a walk around the schoolyard, field, or forest to look for seeds (e.g., acorns, dandelions, or maple tree seeds). Distribute egg cartons or yogurt cups to children to hold the seeds they collect. Visit a school or neighborhood garden to collect seeds from vegetables or flowers that have gone by.
3. Set up a seed collection area in the classroom where children can sort and classify the seeds. Have them share their display and the others can guess how they were sorted. By color? Shape? Size?
4. As the seed discovery and exploration continues, keep returning to the discussion questions. Ask the children what other questions they have about seeds.

Discussion Questions

- Where can we find seeds?
- Do all seeds look the same? How are they alike? Different?
- What is the purpose of seeds?
- How do seeds travel?

Extensions

- “Tree Life Cycle Cards” (Appendix, p.245)
- Wear old, large, wool socks over your shoes. Examine the seeds that your socks pick up.
- Create a Seed Scavenger Hunt for children (or see Appendix, p.237).
- Plant some of the seeds. Watch what happens!

Materials

- books about seeds, such as *How A Seed Grows* by Helene Jordan and Loretta Krupinski, *The Dandelion Seed* by Joseph Anthony, *A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Hutts Aston, or *The Wind's Garden* by Bethany Roberts
- empty egg cartons for holding collected seeds
- magnifiers and magnifying boxes
- empty yogurt cups

