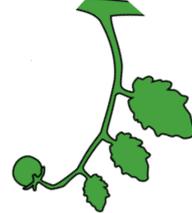




# Talking Points and Teachable Moments



- ▲ Plants are living things. Take good care of them.
- ▲ Gardens grow in a variety of places: inside, outside - in pots, raised beds, wall planters, community plots, greenhouses, backyards, and on farms.
- ▲ Identify and classify fruits versus vegetables.
- ▲ Planning and organizing a garden:
  - best time to plant seeds
  - crops that mature quickly vs. slowly
  - perfect location for each plant
  - suitable weather or temperature
  - variation of plants
  - edible vs. non-edible plants
- ▲ Gardening tools and equipment: seeds, dirt/soil, shovel, hoe, rake, trowel, bucket, spade, hose, watering can, ladder, ruler, wheelbarrow, pot, basket, trellis, etc.



- ▲ How plants grow differently: roots, vines, bushes, trees, like flowers, at different heights, etc.
- ▲ Plant anatomy - parts/components and function: seed, bulb, leaf, stem, pod, roots, flower bud, branch, ear, rind, trunk, skin, thorns, petals, etc.
- ▲ Edible parts of certain plants: stem, leaf, root, skin, flower, pod, pulp, rind, seeds.
- ▲ Other vocabulary and terminology:
  - Early math terms: long, straight, deep, wide, high, short, increase, inside, few, big, top, etc.
  - Gardening terms: dig, plant, water, pour, grow, weed, rock, pebble, patch, plot, ripe, pick, harvest, etc.
  - Movement concepts: pull, dig, drop, pat, walk, twist, peel, hold, tap, catch, tiptoe, stand, stretch, twirl, cut, squeeze, etc.

- ▲ Life cycle of fruits and vegetables.
- ▲ Patterns, lines, and pathways found in and around the garden.
- ▲ The process of photosynthesis: plants make their own food by capturing energy from sunlight, and get their food (nutrients) through natural resources such as the soil, water, and air.
- ▲ Insect and animal life around plants. Can you find the ladybugs, bee, butterflies, caterpillars, beetles, crickets, snails, worms, ants, praying mantises, and stick bugs?



- ▲ Effects of weather on the garden: sunlight, shade, rain, drought, wind, heat, or cold.
- ▲ Scientific process: the process of the scientific method involves asking a question, making guesses, estimations, or predictions (hypotheses), testing with an experiment, analyzing data from the results of the experiment, and drawing a conclusion.
- ▲ Characteristics of fruits and vegetables: color, size, shape, scent, texture, flavor, etc. Use all senses to explore and investigate.
- ▲ Observe, classify, measure, compare, contrast, and question EVERYTHING!
- ▲ Age-appropriate concepts in the life, earth, and physical sciences - botany, biology, and chemistry.



- ▲ Diagram, map, and journal the gardening experience.