



FIGURE 4-1 Seed tape can be made by children gluing seeds to strips of paper towel.



FIGURE 4-2 Let students explore seeds before planting

PLANTING METHODS

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Gertrude Jekyll, said, "A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust." Children are curious and like to learn by doing. A garden provides a space for children to experience the responsibility for nurturing living things over time.

Starting a garden through planting seeds and transplants allow youth to dig in the soil and observe seeds pushing through the surface, unfolding leaves and eventually maturing to be harvested and eaten. Below is a list of different planting methods that one might use with children.

SEED TAPE

1. Cut lengths of toilet paper, paper towel, tissue paper, or newspaper into 2-3 inch wide strips
2. Check the seed packet to see how far to space the seeds and mark the paper with a pencil or marker.
3. Add a dot of all-purpose, non-toxic glue (school glue works well) to each mark.
4. Top each glue dot with a seed and allow to dry.
5. Roll or fold and store until ready to plant
6. When ready, dig a shallow row, place tape, and cover with soil to the depth indicated on seed packet.
7. Water and let grow!
8. Skills and curricula potential: fine motor skills, measurements, fractions, multiplication

Skills and curricula potential: measuring length, area, estimating, fractions

Advantages: easy planting

Disadvantages: requires more materials and prep time

Examples: carrots, lettuce, radishes, spinach, turnips,

BROADCASTING

Take a handful of seeds and simply toss or sprinkle across a small patch of open soil. Water the area and let grow!

Skills and curricula potential: multiplication, compound words "broad"+"cast"

Advantages: quick, least messy

Disadvantages: non-precise, lots of seeds

Examples: winter peas, black eyed peas, clover, buckwheat



FIGURE 4-3 Big seeds like pumpkins or peas are easy for little hands to sow.

ROW PLANTING

1. Dig one, long, row to the appropriate depth for your seeds
2. Give each student a seed.
3. Have the students take turns measuring a placing their seeds
4. Once all seeds are placed, refill the row with soil
5. Water and let grow!

Skills and curricula potential: measurements, fractions

Advantages: quicker, every student gets to plant

Disadvantages: less student involvement

Examples: beets, chard, carrots, radishes, lettuce

TRANSPLANTS

1. Dig a hole about the same size as the root ball of your seedling.
2. Place seedling in and “tuck in” the plant with soil.
3. Give plenty of water

Skills and curricula potential: measurements, fractions, pre-fix meanings and compound words

Advantages: quicker growing and production time

Disadvantages: costlier than seeds, fewer opportunities to plant

Examples: kale, collards, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant,



FIGURE 4-4 Transplants ensure plants will establish quickly in the garden.



FIGURE 4-5 Youth planting and caring for their seeds develop responsibility and respect for nature.