

LITERACY LESSON PLAN KS1/2

PLANTING OUT SEEDLINGS - INSTRUCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Edible
Playgrounds

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To follow and write instructions to plant seedlings
- To give and receive verbal instructions to plant seedlings

CURRICULUM LINKS

Literacy, Science, PSHE

RESOURCES

Trowels, gloves, seedlings in trays, watering cans, plant labels and pen, blindfolds (optional)
How to Guide – planting out seedlings
Crop Guide or seed packet

KEY VOCABULARY

Seedling, roots, stem, trowel

INTRODUCTION (10 MINS)

Check pupils understanding of health and safety: how to walk around the food growing space responsibly; how to use tools safely e.g. keep trowels pointed down, stick into the soil when not being used (5mins).

Warm up game – call out instructions e.g. walk to the north side of the shed, mime how to dig with a trowel/spade or plant a seed (is their mime correct and safe?) Anyone not following the instructions is out!

MAIN ACTIVITIES (45 MINS)

Show children the seedlings and point out the various parts of the plant (roots, stem, leaves...). Discuss how you know when a seedling is ready to plant out (roots start to grow through the seed tray or pot), and how you would gently remove it (by pushing from the bottom and holding seedling gently at base of stem). Use the 'How to Guides' to model planting out a seedling and refer to the instructions from crop guides or seed packets for spacing. Adapt the following to suit your class and support provisions; run as an activity carousel or a series of sessions:

Activity 1: Follow written instructions to plant out seedlings

Using the Trees for Cities 'Crop Guides' and 'How to Guide' for guidance, children work in small groups with allocated roles e.g. digger, soil coverer, waterer to plant their crop using correct terminology while doing it.

Activity 2: Write instructions for planting a seedling

Children write a set of instructions for planting a seedling, using the 'How to Guides' as prompts. Or, block out some of the photos or text from the 'How to Guide' for children to complete for a class growing journal.

Activity 3: Verbal instructions/Team building

In pairs, can pupils direct their partner from one part of the Edible Playground to another? For groups strong with instructions, can they guide their partner a short distance blindfolded?

PLENARY (5 MINS)

Each group to give instructions to their group to safely and sensibly tidy things away. Recap, can children give step by step instructions to the rest of the class to mime the process of planting out?

EXTENSION

Write (or draw) a set of dos and don'ts when handling a seedling (e.g. do handle gently, don't pick up seedling by the stem).