MATHS LESSON PLAN KS1/2
SOWING SEEDS IN RAISED BEDS – MEASURING AND ESTIMATING

Edible Playgrounds

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To learn how to sow seeds using correct spacing
- To develop estimating and measuring skills through seed sowing

CURRICULUM LINKS

Maths, Science

RESOURCES

Seeds, measuring equipment, trowels, rake, gloves, watering can, string
How to Guide – seed sowing in raised beds (downloadable sheet)
Crop Guide or seed packet
Weed ID poster

KEY VOCABULARY

Seed, germinate, weed, drill (channel in the soil)

INTRODUCTION (10 MINS)

What do we need to do before we plant our seeds into the beds? What is a weed? How many weeds do you estimate are in the bed? Why is it important to remove weeds? Give children 'Weed ID poster' and allow them to clear an area by allocating roles, *e.g. identifier, digger, counter, composter.*

MAIN ACTIVITIES (45 MINS)

Show pupils the seed they are planting – what does it need to germinate? How deep do you think it should be planted? How high/wide do you think it will grow? Using the 'Crop guide' or seed packet share actual planting depth, predicted size and spacing. What skills/equipment do you need to ensure they are spaced correctly? Adapt the following to suit your class and support provisions; run as an activity carousel or a series of sessions:

Activity 1: Sowing seeds (in prepared raised bed) using correct spacing
Use the 'How to Guide – sowing in raised beds' to model sowing a seed. Taking it in turns, children follow each step. Ask pupils to estimate and then measure the following: How deep does the seed need to be planted? How far apart should the seeds be sowed? How far apart should the rows be?

Activity 2: Measuring the growing space
Estimate, measure and record the size of different elements in the growing space (i.e. height, width, length, area of raised beds. (Use calculations for future sessions to work out the amount of fertiliser needed for the area).

Activity 3: Make a seed spacing stick
Create your own seed spacing stick using bamboo or flat piece of wood. For each crop, you are planning to sow, mark the correct plant spacing. Pupils should estimate, mark in pencil then check with measuring equipment before marking in pen, labelling and decorating their stick.

PLENARY (5 MINS)

Thinking about your seeds – how long do you think they will take to germinate? What could stop them growing successfully? What do you need to do to help them grow? Why is it important to space seeds correctly?
Plan to measure each week/month and record your plants' growth. Use this data in future sessions for creating/reading charts and investigating averages.

EXTENSION

Create a set of challenge questions (e.g. list something you can see which is more than a meter) and post around the garden, so that children can find and go and answer if they finish on their activity station.