



Month: October Week: 4 Subject: Approaches to Play & Learning

Day 1	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Theme: Plants Number: 13 Letter: Gg Color: Red Shape: Oval	APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence
Indicators	Younger Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	Uses senses to explore textures and materials.	Engages in sensory play for longer periods and describes what they feel.

Activity: Soil & Seed Sensory Bin

Fill a bin with potting soil, seeds, and gardening tools. Allow toddlers to scoop, pour, and dig freely using spoons and cups. Encourage them to describe how the soil feels (“soft,” “wet,” “cold”). Guide them to “plant” pretend seeds and cover them with soil. This sensory play builds curiosity, motor skills, and early scientific understanding of how plants grow.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potting soil or sensory-safe filler (cocoa mulch or rice) • Cups, spoons, small pots • Fake or real seeds 	Key Vocabulary: dig, soil, seed	Support:
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Day 2	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Theme: Plants Number: 13 Letter: Gg Color: Red Shape: Oval	APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
Indicators	Younger Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	Joins in with simple pretend play.	Plans and creates short pretend scenes with peers.

Activity: **Build a Garden**

Set up a play area with blocks, toy flowers, and small garden props. Invite toddlers to work together to build a pretend garden. Model phrases like “Let’s plant here!” or “This flower goes next to the tree!” Support cooperation by helping them share materials and talk about what they’re building. Encourage praise and gentle problem-solving as they create.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building blocks or soft bricks • Plastic flowers, toy trees, or felt vegetables 	Key Vocabulary: build, plant, together	Support:
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Day 3	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Theme: Plants Number: 13 Letter: Gg Color: Red Shape: Oval	APL1.2 Demonstrate interest and curiosity as a learner APL3.1 Demonstrate development of sustained attention and persistence
Indicators	Younger Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	Explores cause and effect while filling and dumping materials.	Uses fine motor control to scoop and pour carefully.

Activity: Seed Scoop & Pour Station

Create a sensory station with dry beans or large seeds. Provide scoops, spoons, and cups. Encourage toddlers to fill and empty containers, exploring how seeds move and sound. Ask guiding questions like, “What happens when we pour fast?” or “What sound do the seeds make?” This builds focus, fine motor coordination, and curiosity through repetition.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large dry seeds or beans Cups, scoops, spoons 	Key Vocabulary: pour, fill, scoop	Support:
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Day 4	Topic(s)	Foundation(s)
	Theme: Plants Number: 13 Letter: Gg Color: Red Shape: Oval	APL2.1 Demonstrate development of flexible thinking during play APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
Indicators	Younger Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	Tries different ways to fix or move objects with help.	Suggests or tries solutions during play.

Activity: **Garden Problem Solving -“Fix the Droopy Plant”**

Show toddlers a pretend “droopy” plant (paper flower or felt one that’s bent). Ask, “What should we do to help it grow tall again?” Provide pretend tools, cups of water, and sun pictures to encourage problem-solving. Allow toddlers to try different solutions, praising every attempt. This promotes early reasoning and confidence in their own ideas.

Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pretend or paper flowers Cups, toy watering cans Sun cutout 	Key Vocabulary: fix, help, grow	Support:
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Day 5	Topic(s) Theme: Plants Number: 13 Letter: Gg Color: Red Shape: Oval	Foundation(s) APL1.1 Demonstrate initiative and self-direction APL4.1 Demonstrate development of social interactions during play
Indicators	Younger Toddlers	Older Toddlers
	Follows simple directions to clean up.	Works with others to complete cleanup routines.
<p>Activity: Cleanup Together Time</p> <p>After morning play or centers, invite children to clean up together. Use a “Cleanup Song” and assign small jobs, like putting blocks in bins or returning flowers to the basket. Praise children for helping and working together. Explain that cleaning up keeps the “garden” (classroom) safe and ready for more fun tomorrow.</p>		
Resources/Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baskets and labeled bins • Music player for “Cleanup Song” • Stickers for helpers 	Key Vocabulary: clean, help, finish	Support: