

## **Making Observations - 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

We took the children out to the garden for a tour and to make **observations**. We asked students why it's important to make observations and reminded students how scientists make observations by using their 5 senses.

- 1) Make some observation charts (on clipboards) in advance for the children to use to sketch things that catch their eye and
- 2) give each child a small paper bag to collect any treasures they discover.

We spent most of our time at the Dr. Seuss, Three Sisters, and Sensory beds, as well as the maze and - believe it or not – digging around in the compost!

On another occasion we made closer **observations about seeds**. We read The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle and went out to the garden and started by digging up one of the big sunflowers so we could show the children the entire plant including the root structure. Unfortunately there weren't any sunflower seeds left to harvest, but we talked about how squirrels had been eating them and how we could find them on the ground beneath the plant. We had also brought a cut sunflower from home, and we were able to harvest those seeds. The children enjoyed looking at the striped shells and sketched them on observation sheets.

We then broke into two groups to harvest more seeds, with one group harvesting amaranth seed and the other harvesting milkweed. We looked at the differences in the seeds, especially in relation to the large, striped sunflower seeds. Students did some more sketches of their observations and were excited to put seeds into bags to bring home. The kids were thrilled to find exploding jewel weed seed pods, the giant pumpkin, and the cotton flower.