

**Marigold:
Seeds, Harvest, Count, Plant**

2016 Ms. Cretera's Garden Parents
Outdoor Lesson #20- 3.29.2017

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Objective: The kindergartners would like to contribute to this year's garden. Marigolds are an important plant to keep pests away from the tomato plant family, and the seed pods can be harvested within the garden. The kids can harvest the flower heads, explore the pods, learn facts about marigolds, focus on guessing and counting seeds, and plant seedlings that contribute to the garden. They can track the seeds growth in the classroom, and then bring them back to the garden for re-planting (with guidance)

Time/location: The entire lesson can be done in 30-40 min.

Materials: White craft paper for picnic table, yogurt containers, plant trays, soil, marigold seed pods.

Poems: Seeds Poem found online/ see below

Books: Oh Say Can You Seed, All About Flowering Plants by Bonnie Worth / So many options!

Before The Lesson/ And Anytime we need to re-group (also Ms. Cretera's method, 3,2,1,shh....kids love to recite it:

-Deep Breath Pause: Breathe in the air just the way the roots absorb in the water, feel it go to all parts of your body, (feel the water going up your trunk, into your branches, out to the leaves, make food, and evaporate) and breath out.

Part 1/Harvest Marigold Pods

Pick dry flowerheads, talk about death becoming life in nature..

Part 2/ Guess How Many Seeds and then Count The kids love a guessing game, they can guess the number of seeds by thinking about the size of pod, practice calling

Part3/ Plant the Seeds in small Yogurt Containers The kids learn about re-use, planting several seeds in each container, and then can track their growth over the next few weeks. How many plants emerge in each container? Why/ Why not. Ties into curriculum lessons in class on parts of the seed. We also brought a bean in a mason jar with the bean seed for the window because we liked the idea of seeing the plant parts without the soil as well. While planting, the parents can talk about some of the uses and cultural significance of Marigolds around the world.

The marigold is likewise associated with the sun - being vibrant yellow and gold in color. The flowers are open when the sun is out. The marigold is also called the "herb of the sun", representing passion and even creativity.

<http://theherbgardener.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-difference-between-french-marigold.html>

Part 4/ Seed Poem

Seeds

A little seed for me to sow
A little earth to make it grow
A little hole, a little pat,
A little wish, and that is that,
A little sun, a little shower.
A little while -
And then, a flower!

Part 5/ Group Circle: Oh Say Can You Seed, All About Flowering Plants by Bonnie Worth

Read a chunk of the book, and possibly guide the kids through pantomime:

Not all plants with seeds give us edible fruit

Some plants have seeds that look weird or look cute

**Bur seeds are hitchhikers that ride on your clothes
And dandelion seeds sometimes fly up your nose**

**Some seeds come in pods that explode like a sneeze
Other seeds may have wings and can fly on a breeze.**

**But whether they stick or they blow or they fly,
seeds bring us life, and now you know why**