

EY 3.1

# GROWING ACTIVITY 1

## GROW YOUR OWN BEANSTALK

This activity is about growing our own beanstalk, what plants need to grow and the different stages in the beans growth. Use your growing cards to help you.

### Curriculum links

Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking.
Physical development	Moving and handling.
Personal, social and emotional development	Self-confidence and self awareness; Managing feelings and behaviour; Making relationships.
Literacy	Reading; Writing.
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures.
Understanding the world	The world; Technology.
Expressive arts and design	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative.

### What you need:

- Bean Seeds.
- Growing Cards.
- Kitchen paper.
- Plastic bags.
- Clear plastic cups.
- Marker pen and label.
- Compost.
- Scoop.

### Introduction

Stories that can be used to introduce this activity are:

- ✓ 'Jack and the Beanstalk' (traditional fairytale).
- ✓ 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth.

Many foods we like to eat start out as seeds planted in the soil.

*What do plants need to grow?*

Water, warmth, food, light and time – a bit like us.

*Why didn't Jasper's seed grow?*

Some seeds grow very quickly, others need more time.



# GROW YOUR OWN BEANSTALK

1. Give each young child a couple of bean seeds (runner, broad or French climbing beans). They put them in a plastic bag (with their names on) with some dampened kitchen paper. Tape all the bags to the window or peg them to a washing line across a window, where they will get light and warmth. Put a couple of seeds in a bag with dry paper and two more in a bag with damp paper but no light (so the children can see if the seeds will grow with no water and light).
2. Keep a class diary and record what happens with pictures, photos and writing.
3. A few days later the beans will have germinated and have a little shoot. Half-fill a clear plastic cup with some potting compost, add the seeds and cover the seeds with some more compost, to about 1cm below top.
4. Keep the compost damp and a few days later a shoot and roots will appear. The children can see their beanstalks starting to grow! Record each beanstalk's height each week.
5. Cut out pictures to show the growing sequence of the bean and ask the young children to put them in order.
6. The clear plastic cups will be getting a bit small for your beanstalks now. They could be potted on into a bigger plant pot or, if there is no risk of frost, then now would be a good time to plant them outside. You can use bamboo canes or bean poles to make a wigwam (it could be used as a storytelling teepee). Plant your beans and watch them grow! Young children can learn the names of garden tools.
7. Finish off the activity by playing some music and ask the young children to pretend to be a bean growing: '*A tiny seed was sleeping*' is a good song to make up actions to, or play Vivaldi's '*Spring*' or Grieg Peer Gynt's '*Morning*'.
8. Read the adapted cave bean story (page 73).

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## Extended activity

- Look at the parts of a plant. You can build your own plant using raffia as roots, cutting out a green stem, leaves, flowers, pods, fruit etc. from card, and then sticking them on a large piece of paper. Label the different plant parts.
- You could bring in different fruit and vegetables to discuss what part of the plant they are and which bits you are eating.
- Use dried beans to make musical instruments out of ornamental gourds or simply a bean shaker.
- Make little bean bags and play games with them.