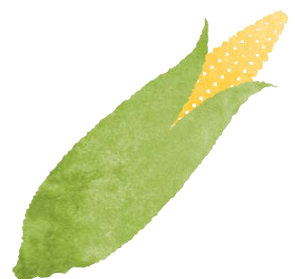




MINI PLANT MARKETS



A project to
engage Early Years
children in exploring,
growing and selling
plants to their
community.



INTRODUCTION

Mini Plant Markets provide a great focus for children's learning and are an opportunity for healthy food, growing and cooking messages to go home and out into the community. They are also an opportunity to raise funds for your Food for Life activities.

Children are supported to take the lead in growing plants to sell, setting up and running their own stall, selling their own grown produce, and potentially even be involved with inviting the local community as well.

This Food for Life Mini Plant Markets resource is designed to provide Early Years practitioners with ideas and resources for hosting a plant/produce sale at your setting. The resource gives children a chance to be part of an exciting enterprise project that encourages them to grow and sell healthy plants/produce, whilst supporting your setting in meeting criteria towards your Food for Life Early Years Award.

Ideas have been mapped against the Early Learning Goals.

The main criteria this project supports are:

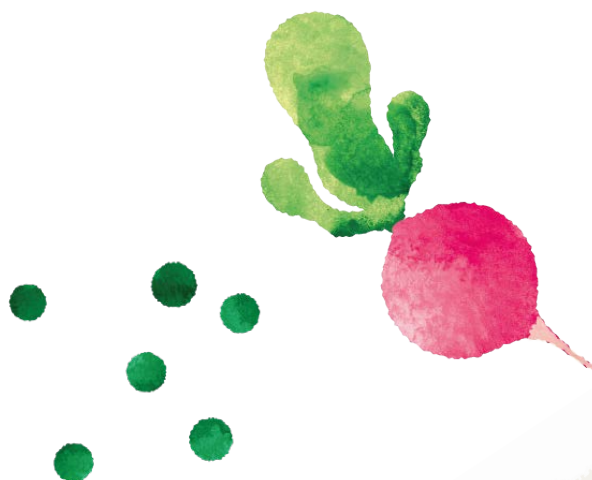
Food Education

- **3.0** We use the topics of healthy and sustainable food as the theme for activities to support all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) educational framework.
- **3.1** We grow food with the children using safe organic methods and give them an opportunity to eat fruit, vegetables and herbs they have grown.



Community, Partnerships & Parent Engagement

- **4.0** We celebrate diversity and include food-related activities to celebrate multicultural festivals and events in different cultures. This is done throughout the year for the children, parents and the wider community.
- **4.1** We make efforts to actively engage parents, carers and the wider community in our growing, cooking and farm-linked activities.
- **4.2** We take every opportunity to encourage children and families to taste and talk about a variety of foods, including seasonal fruit and vegetables.



What to plant – seed options

ELG: Listening, Attention and Understanding - Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions...during whole class discussions and small group interactions.

ELG: Speaking - Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.

FFL Early Years Award criteria: 3.0; 4.2

Introduce the idea of the children selling their own grown plants and produce to their parents, carers and the wider community.

Look at some different seeds and discuss what they are. Larger seeds such as peas and beans work well as they are easier for the children to handle.

Seed suggestions:

- Peas
- Broad beans
- Runner beans
- Pumpkins
- Courgette
- Squash

Other popular but smaller seed options are:

- Tomato
- Lettuce
- Strawberry (strawberry plant runners are also great to pot on and sell)
- Herbs (see What to plant: herbs)

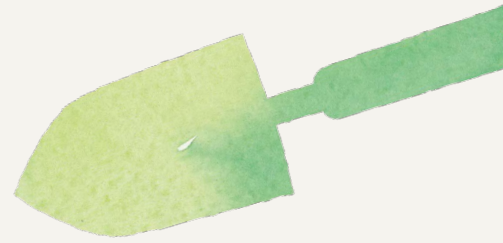
Discuss what the seeds will need to grow. Please see **Appendix** for pictures to help elicit this information.

Consider what you want to grow to sell as harvested produce and what you might like to sell as seedlings. You will need to fix your market date with growing time in mind. If you decide to sell seedlings, consider printing off the growing card for families to support them in nurturing the plant at home. Growing cards for all veg and herbs can be found here:

www.gardenorganic.org.uk/expert-advice/how-to-grow/how-to-grow-cards



What to plant: herbs



Herbs are really useful in adding flavour to our food, and many are easy to grow.

Top Tip!

Easy herbs to grow: Thyme, parsley, mint, chives, oregano, sage.

To help the children decide what herbs to grow, provide the opportunity for them to smell, touch and taste a selection to decide which ones they like.



- Buy a selection of herb plants or bring in cuttings from your garden to keep down costs.
- Encourage the children to pick a leaf from every plant, crush it between their fingers and smell it. This is a great opportunity to create a word bank of describing words that the children use to describe the herbs.
- Another activity is to pop a small amount of each herb into a pot, cover the pot with foil and secure with an elastic band. Place slits in the foil and invite the children to smell each herb – can they match the smell to the correct plant?



Sowing seeds

ELG: Self-regulation - Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.

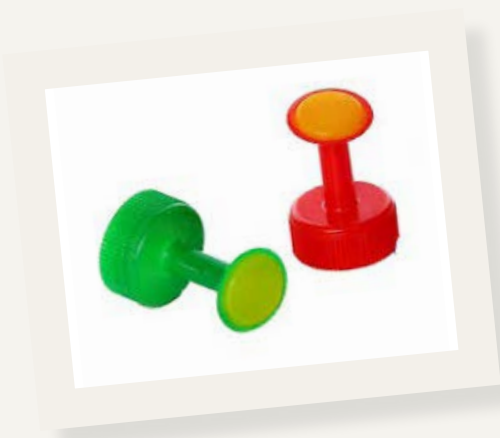
ELG: Fine Motor Skills - Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery.

ELG: The Natural World - Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

FFL Early Years Award criteria: 3.1

You will need:

1. Pots (see 'Making paper pots')
2. Plant labels (see below)
3. Compost
4. Seeds
5. **Bottle top waterers** to screw onto a used plastic water bottle are great for young children as they can easily hold the bottle and control the amount of water they give to each plant through the small holes, and control where the water goes! It is easier for the children to water at the base of each plant rather than watering the leaves that can then become scorched in very hot weather.



1. Making paper pots:

To avoid costs and using plastic, you could make newspaper pots for the children to use for planting their seeds. Some of the older children may have the dexterity skills to help make the paper pots by rolling the newspaper around a jam jar / similar cylindrical shape.

There are a multitude of paper pot making films online – pick one that makes sense to you! All you need is newspaper and some empty, narrow jam-jars (other cylindrical containers will also work!).

It can be useful to stand the paper pots together in used plastic trays, such as mushroom trays, so that they stand up more securely.

2. Plant labels:

You can use old margarine tubs - cut into arrow shapes, large enough for a member of staff to write on the plant name, or lolly sticks also work well.



Role-play: money handling



ELG: Listening, Attention and Understanding - Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions; Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.

FFL Early Years Award criteria: 3.0

A simple role-play around buying and selling plants will prepare the children for selling their plants to parents, carers, staff and the community.

- Decide how much to sell each plant / product for.
- Using the correct coins and pictures of plants, create the opportunity for the children to practice selling plants / produce to their friends and members of staff.



Promoting your market

ELG: The Natural World - Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.

ELG: Creating with Materials - Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function; - Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.

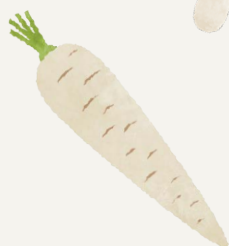
FFL Early Years Award criteria: 4.0; 4.1

The week before your market, give the children the opportunity to do some drawings of their plants.

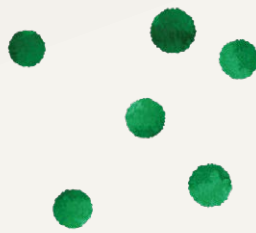
Using a collage of their artwork, create a poster to put up and/or email out to parents and carers.

Top Tip!

Hold your plant sale at the busiest pick-up or drop-off time of the day and week, and repeat on different days or at different times if possible, to ensure all parents and carers have the opportunity to buy plants and produce from their children!



Setting up your stall



ELG: Managing Self - Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.

FFL Early Years Award criteria: 4.1; 4.2

Involve the children as much as possible in decision-making:

- How can we make our stall look attractive so that everyone wants to come over and look at what we have to sell?
- Where would be a good place to have our table of plants/produce to sell so that grown-ups coming to collect their children will see us?
- How much shall we charge for our plants/produce? Refer back to your role-play activity and remind children what price was decided for the plants. Remind them of the coins that would be used to pay with.

Top Tip!

You could have a Smell / Touch / Taste section to your stall, sharing the children's descriptive words for herbs. Adults can then model smelling, touching and tasting herbs before buying a herb plant the children have grown.



Appendix

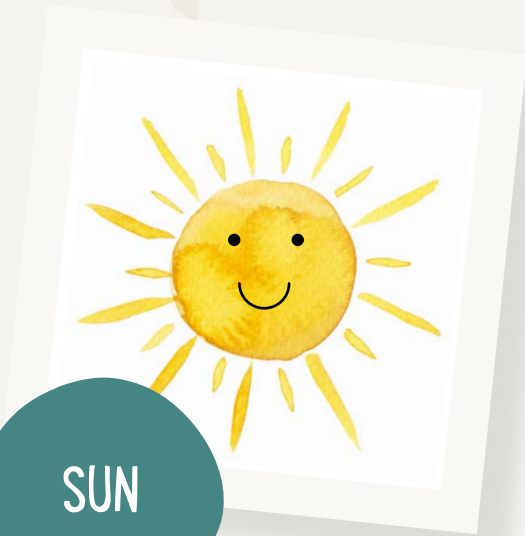


DRIED PEAS

PEA PLANT



SOIL



SUN

WATER

