

EY 3.1

GROWING ACTIVITY 3

STRAWBERRY WELLIES

If you have some old wellies lying around, don't throw them away. They are a fun container for growing strawberries and lots of other plants in small spaces. Ask parents and carers to bring in some old wellies from home if they have any they don't need any more.

Curriculum links

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

What you need:

- Old wellies.
- Gravel or stones.
- Compost.
- Strawberry plants (standard or alpine).

Introduction

A brilliant story to introduce this activity with is *'The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear'* by Don and Audrey Wood.

TIP:

For extra drainage put a few holes in the bottom of the wellies. You could also cut a couple of extra slits into the sides of each welly to fit more plants in.

CAUTION:

Some children have strawberry allergies and come out in a red rash when they eat them.



STRAWBERRY WELLIES

1. Put a few stones or some gravel in the foot of the welly for drainage (it also helps the welly to keep standing by adding weight to the base).
2. Fill the welly with some potting compost, to just below your first slit (or the top). Pop a strawberry plant in, add some more compost to the next slit, add another plant and so on, to about 3cm below the top of the welly. Finally, add your last plant.
3. Sprinkle some gravel on top of the compost. This helps to reduce water loss in hot weather and stops compost spilling when it is watered. By finishing 3cm below the top you allow space for watering.
4. Watch your wellies grow!
5. As an alternative to wellies you could use bright coloured plastic colanders as hanging baskets for your strawberries.

Extended activity

- Adapt words to songs, for example, sing *'Picked a strawberry'* sung to the melody of *'Clementine'*; *'Mouse and the Strawberry'* sung to *'Short'nin' Bread'*; *'I am a Strawberry'* sung to *'I'm a little Teapot'*.
- After you have harvested and enjoyed your strawberries, they will produce baby plants by way of runners. You can give these baby plants to parents and carers to take home. Make a strawberry tree display and ask the carers to take a photo of their new strawberry plants in their new home and bring in to your setting to place on the tree.
- Make some lovely strawberry smoothies to enjoy.
- Visit a pick-your-own-fruit farm.