

Garden to Classroom Activity List

Planning a Dream Garden

This activity works well towards the end of winter when you might start thinking about your upcoming garden.

1. Start the conversation about what the plants are doing right now. Many are dead, others are 'sleeping', and some may be already starting to wake up, like maple trees.
2. Now is a good time to plan for what a school or home garden could look like.
3. You can offer seed catalogues (free from Burpee and other seed supplies if you sign up for their mailings), gardening magazines or even calendars for collages, or just offer drawing materials. If you have an existing garden, you may give the children a template of the space (such as number and location of planters/raised beds), or you can make it completely open ended.
4. Allow the children to cut and paste, or draw, what they'd want the garden to look like.
5. Have them share as a class, post them on the walls, and have discussions about the different plants children listed. Are they familiar with them all? What things reflect foods children bring for lunch? Are there any plants that some children haven't seen or taste before (maybe you could bring one in!)
6. You can also let this inform your decisions about what kinds of seeds or seedlings you might want to grow.

Food Memory Activity

This activity only needs drawing materials and a sheet of paper. It's a great opportunity to practice self-portraits with kids, in addition to talking about the memories associated with food in our lives. You'd probably be most successful doing this in small groups of 2-3 at a time with a teacher.

1. Holding the paper so the long edges are at the top and bottom (landscape orientation), fold each side in so that they meet in the middle.
2. Keeping them folded, take the inner edge of each fold, and fold each one back so that it meets the outer edge of the fold.
3. Now, turn the paper so your folds are at the top and bottom of the page (portrait orientation) and draw your face so that it overlaps the folds.
4. Pull open your "mouth" fold & write or draw a food that has a strong memory for you.
5. Pull open your "head" fold & write a word or sentence about that memory. You'll likely have to have the children tell you words to write down.
6. You can share these during meeting time, or just post them and let conversations occur naturally.