



Watering the Garden: Preschool Lesson



Harvest of the Month Featured Product- Strawberries

Objectives

- Children will learn about the importance of water for plants.
- Children will learn how to determine if gardens need to be watered by exploring dry and wet soil.

NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development

Goals Addressed:

APL-1, APL-2, APL-8
HPD-2, HPD-4, HPD-5, HPD-6
LDC-1, LDC-8, LDC-9
CD-1, CD-14, CD-15

Materials

- Garden soil
- Six to eight shallow buckets or containers
- Water
- Watering cans

Preparation

Put dry garden soil in each of the shallow buckets or containers. Add water to half of the buckets and mix until the soil is very damp.

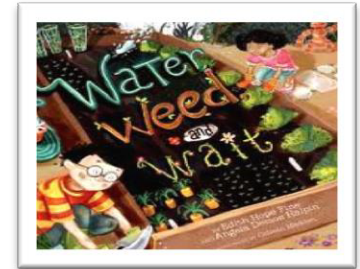
Activities

Read a book

Read Water, Weed, Wait by Edith Hope Vine and Angela Demos Halpin and review the things plants need to survive. Highlight that plants need water almost every day, just like people need water. How does nature provide water for plants? (It rains!) What do gardeners need to do if it hasn't rained? (Water the plants!) Tell children there are several things gardeners use when they are watering their plants: a watering can (hold one up) and their fingers! Does everyone have fingers? Have them wiggle their fingers. Tell children that you need help determining if the plants in the garden need to be watered. Can they help?!

Garden Activity

Take children to the garden. Bring your shallow buckets of soil. Guide children in taking turns feeling the dry soil and the wet soil. How does each of them feel? Cool, warm, crumbly, clumpy? Give the children time to play in the soil. Ask children to gently put their fingers in the soil of the garden bed without disturbing the plants. Does the soil feel wet or dry?



Book to Read

Water, Weed, and Wait
by Edith Hope Vine &
Angela Demos Halpin



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If the soil feels dry, demonstrate watering plants by “drawing” a circle around each plant multiple times with the stream of water. Let the children take turns watering with the watering can if the soil feels dry. Have children retest the soil with their fingers to feel the difference in how it feels after watering.

After teaching the watering lesson, select three children as “watering leaders” each week. Guide those children in testing the garden soil and watering the garden every day of their week. Rotate through the entire class.