

## SAMPLE ACTIVITY PLAN

# BIRTHING BABY BEANS

### CONTENT OBJECTIVES

Use scientific processes. Learn about characteristics of plants and growth.

**Children will:** Use observation skills (drawing stages of growth)  
Form hypotheses (about what is required to support plant growth)  
Design and conduct an experiment (testing the hypothesis)  
Draw/present conclusions based on the experiment

### CONTENT TEACHING STRATEGY (Form small groups)

**Review/introduce:** Discuss growing plants (why we grow plants, plants they see, have in their house, garden, etc.). Give bean seeds to each group. Describe seeds (observe).

**Discuss in groups,** "What will the seeds need to grow into plants?" (hypothesis) Each group plans an experiment to test one idea. If they want to test 'light,' ask how (e.g., put some beans in the dark, some in light). If 'water,' how? (e.g., water some, not others). Have different groups test different things.

**Make Baby Bean observation notebooks** with dates, drawings, and note space for each entry. Draw bean seed; write date. Plan to observe every other day for 2 weeks.

**Provide materials** to set up experiments (cups, water, cotton, etc.).

**Record observations, draw, discuss.** After several days, ask what they are finding in relation to their ideas or hypotheses. Do they want to rethink and revise their hypothesis?

**As beans sprout,** transplant to soil in cups and make new hypotheses and experiments; continue to the 2-leaf stage.

**Each group presents** Baby Bean Book of experiments and findings.

**NEED** Minimum 12 beans per group, cotton, cups, plant food, water, a way to make dark space and light space; paper to make Baby Bean Books.

### COMPREHENSION CHECK & ASSESSMENT

Review notebooks and beans at each stage and ask for explanations.

Note questions children ask and how they think about answers.

Pose questions after presentations about what they discovered, what they still wonder about, and what it makes them think about.

### FOLLOW-UP NOTES

Did this work? \_\_\_\_\_

How to improve it? \_\_\_\_\_

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