

At Home with Nature

Nature doesn't just happen in a park; it can happen right at home!



A resource for **PRE-KINDERGARTEN** and **EARLY ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN** so they may feel right **AT HOME WITH NATURE**.

From Tiny Seed to Giant Pumpkin!

Videos, activities, stories and songs celebrating the life of a pumpkin!

Let's Get Started

Discover how tiny pumpkin seeds grow to become giant pumpkins as we visit a pumpkin farm!

<https://youtu.be/Gb8IVQI7P3A>

Literacy Connection

Imagine enormous pumpkins at some of our famous American landscapes while enjoying the story How Big Could Your Pumpkin Grow? written by Wendell Minor.

<https://youtu.be/A72aa67KkO0>

Music and Movement

Sing along and pretend to be pumpkins growing and changing.

<https://youtu.be/4TQIVSD8gaw>



Math Connection

Enjoy a sweet poem while counting pumpkins.

https://youtu.be/umvOMFjeH_U

Count pumpkin seeds and use estimation skills with other pumpkin math fun.

Directions are below.

Creative Expression

Prepare and enjoy roasted pumpkin seeds as well as plant seeds and watch as they soon sprout!

Directions are below.

Let's Explore Outdoors

Take the learning outdoors with memorable family activities.

Details are below.



Math Connection



How Many Seeds?

Pumpkins are a symbol of harvest time. Plump and round, they are a delight to behold. When we carve into a pumpkin we uncover many pumpkin seeds. Wash and dry those seeds and invite your child to use them as counting tokens.



Pumpkin Math

If you have pumpkins at your home, have your child weigh them and compare their weights. Compare the pumpkins' weights with your child's weight.



With your child, try guessing how big around a pumpkin is by measuring out a length of string that you think will be the size of your pumpkin. Now place it around the pumpkin to see how closely you estimated.

Music and Movement



I'm a Little Pumpkin!

Tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little pumpkin, (extend your arms around your head)
orange and round.
I grow from a seed
planted safely in the ground.

When I am all grown up,
give me a face (point to your smile big)
and put out me outside (rest your chin on your hands)
in a very safe place.

Pumpkins in the Garden!

Tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

The rain wets the seed,
the rain wets the seed,
out in the garden,
the rain wets the seed.

The sun begins to shine...

The plant begins to grow...

The vine grows very long...

The plant grows pretty flowers...

The flowers turn to seeds...

The pumpkins grow and grow...



Creative Expression



Family Fun - Roasting Pumpkin Seeds!



Materials Needed:

2 Cups of Pumpkin Seeds (that have been washed and dried)
2 Tsp Vegetable Oil
Salt

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 300 degrees.
- Mix the pumpkin seeds with the oil in a bowl.
- Spread the pumpkin seeds on a cookie sheet.
- Sprinkle the seeds with salt.
- Roast the seeds in the oven for 30-40 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes.
- Let cool before eating.

Creative Expression



Watch It Sprout!

Materials Needed:

Seeds
Resealable Sandwich-size Plastic Bag
Paper Towel, Cut into a 4" Square
Tape

Directions:

- Moisten the paper towel with water and place a seed on top. Fold the towel in order to cover the seed on both sides.
- Place the folded towel into the plastic bag and seal.
- Tape the bag to the inside of a sunny window.
- Watch as the seed germinates.



Let's Explore Outdoors



Dig In!

"To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds, and watch their renewal of life, - this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do."
Charles Dudley Warner

Head outside and invite your child to dig in the dirt! Encourage your child to wonder and delight in all of its textures, smells and visual treasures. Whether you plant a window box or cultivate a vegetable garden, include your child in the miracle of growth!



Sprouting Your Socks



Seeds come in all shapes, sizes and packages. Be seed collectors! Put old tube socks on the OUTSIDE of your shoes and walk in your yard or nearby woods. Examine the socks closely and see if you picked up any seeds. Dampen the socks and place them in a sunny place. After a week, your socks will sprout!

Let's Explore Outdoors



Visit a Farmer's Market and Search for Fruits

Visit a farmer's market and decide which items are fruits. Fruits are fleshy parts of plants that contain and protect plant seeds. Pumpkins are fruits. Notice the different sizes and colors of fruits. Purchase some favorites and then cut them open. Count the number of seeds inside each. Which fruit has the

most seeds? Which has the least?



Go on a Slug and Snail Hunt

On a damp day, head outside to the garden and search for slugs and snails. Watch how these creatures move. Invite your child to draw the creatures you found.

