

Tin Can Herb Garden

Children should learn how to successfully grow a plant. Plants need water, light, and soil to grow. Children will also learn the importance of recycling. One way to recycle is to reuse old household materials, thus reducing the amount of waste. Students will reuse old soup cans as planters. Grow an herb (or other plant) in an old soup/vegetable can. Student learns the value of recycling as well as what plants need to grow.



You will need:

Soup/vegetable can (or other of same size) for each child

Suggestion: begin collecting these well in advance of your event or ask the teacher you will be working with to have the students collect them in advance

Potting soil

Herbs (may also use other plants or seeds)

Water

Permanent markers

Stickers

Paint pens

Construction paper and glue/tape

How to:

1. Give each child a can.
2. Allow them to decorate the outside as they wish. They may use any of the supplies suggested above. Make sure that they put their names on it somewhere.
3. Tell students that they will be planting an herb in the can.
4. Fill the can about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of potting soil.
5. Have students use their fingers to dig a small hole in the soil.
6. Place the herb in the soil. Cover the root ball and pat down.
7. Water the plant.

Discussion Questions:

- Ask students what they think the plant will need to grow. Answer: water, soil, sunlight
- Ask students why they think it is important to recycle. Possible answers: conserve natural resources; reduce the amount of waste in landfills.
- Ask students to brainstorm other ways that they can recycle and conserve natural resources.
- Talk about how they can cook with their herbs. Examples: put basil and/or oregano in your spaghetti; put cilantro in your salsa

Farmer Ben Educational Activities developed by Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, a program of the Virginia Farm Bureau.



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