

SCIENCE learning springboards

Pappus

Indoors: washing up bowl allotment

When you have no access to outdoor space, this is an option

Aim: Design, create, nurture and harvest a mini allotment for the classroom.

Resources:

- Washing up bowl or other suitable deep container, with drainage holes in the base and drip tray below
- Potting compost, labels, watering can with fine 'rose' for gentle watering
- Quick growing seeds, e.g. rocket, pakchoi, radish, pea shoots: 10-15 days to harvest
- Slower growing seeds, e.g. basil, beetroot, spring onions, lettuce: 15-45 days to harvest
- A small herb plant for the centre (e.g. basil, mint, thyme, parsley, chives - a supermarket 'growing herb' pot would work)

Activity:

If you have space for 4 or 5 containers, divide the class into groups. Each group plans a menu of 'harvest meals' at an appropriate future date according to the estimated growing time of the seeds - the easiest menu is a salad sandwich!

- Select at least one quick growing seed variety and one slower growing variety, plus one herb plant per container.
- Place the plant first in the centre, then sow the seeds according to the instructions on the seed packet, in an arrangement of each group's choice.
- Add labels and water well but take care not to flood the seeds.
- Position in good light and monitor watering.

More springboards:

- Pappus Indoor Plants ID sheet
- Literacy Learning Springboard: Descriptive language; watering plants

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can nurture crops
- ✓ I know where food comes from

Key vocabulary:

Crop, seeds, sow, compost, harvest



Indoors: vertical growing

Greening your classroom with a mini green wall

Aim: Add restorative green plants to a quiet corner of the classroom, even when space is limited – this makes an excellent DT project, too.

Activity 1: green living wall

You will need:

A long, shallow planting trough with NO drainage holes in the base; vertical timber frame or trellis, approximately 30cm high to enable capillary action watering; capillary matting stapled to the frame (the water wicks to the trough below, kept full of water); mini capillary pockets fixed to the matting, or garden wire to attach the plants to the mat; cobbles/rocks and mini water plants/oxygenators in the trough.

- Shade and damp loving plants such as moss, ferns, *Soleriolia soleirolia* - also known as 'mind your own business' plant will work well. Small succulents will also make a very attractive display.
- Place the trough in a light position, but not in full sun. Once planted, keep trough topped up with water.

Activity 2: indoor grass jungle

You will need:

A trough filled with compost, with drainage holes and a drip tray below; grasses and small bamboos – these could even be weeds or wildflowers.

- Plant up the troughs and position them in a bright place, but not in direct sunlight as it may scorch the leaves. Keep the compost moist but not waterlogged and experiment with mirror sheets to bounce light around and magnify the green effect.

More springboards:

- Pappus Indoor Plants ID sheet – this lists a few ferns as well as succulents advice.

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can nurture plants
- ✓ I understand the value of green plants to my health and wellbeing.

Key vocabulary:

Capillary action, trough, compost, succulents



Indoor green wall

