



## DAY 2 – STEM IN THE GARDEN (March 24) INFANT & TODDLER ACTIVITIES



### **1. Touch and Feel Plants**

**Age:** Infants & Young Toddlers

**Description / Instructions:**

Place a small variety of real plants and herbs within reach. Sit with the child and allow them to touch, smell, and observe the plants. Describe what the child is experiencing using simple language.

**Materials:**

- Potted herbs (mint, basil)
- Leaves with different textures
- Small tray or basket

**Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor garden area or near a window indoors

**Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Smooth
- Rough
- Soft
- Smell
- Leaf

**Extended Activities:**

- Introduce one new plant each day
- Add watering with a spray bottle

**Make It Easier:**

- Offer one plant at a time

**Make It More Advanced:**

- Compare two plants side by side

**DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **ATL 2:** Curiosity, Interest, and Initiative
- **SCI 2:** Inquiry Through Observation and Investigation
- **PD 4:** Fine Motor Manipulative Skills

**2. Watering the Garden**

**Age:** Toddlers

**Description / Instructions:**

Children use small watering containers to water plants. Adults model gentle pouring and narrate actions while children explore independently.

**Materials:**

- Small watering cans
- Buckets
- Potted plants

**Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor garden or patio

**Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Pour
- Wet
- Dry
- Water

**Extended Activities:**

- Compare wet and dry soil
- Water plants at the same time each day

**Make It Easier:**

- Use lightweight containers

**Make It More Advanced:**

- Talk about how much water plants need

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **SCI 1:** Cause and Effect
- **PD 2:** Gross Locomotor Movement Skills
- **SED 3:** Relationships and Reciprocal Interactions with Familiar Adults

## **3. Digging and Scooping**

**Age:** Toddlers

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children dig, scoop, and transfer soil using simple tools. Adults observe and describe children's actions.

### **Materials:**

- Soil or sand
- Scoops and shovels
- Containers

### **Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor sensory or garden area

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Dig
- Scoop
- Full
- Empty

### **Extended Activities:**

- Bury and uncover objects
- Add water to change the soil texture

### **Make It Easier:**

- Use larger tools

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Compare dry and wet soil

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **SCI 1:** Cause and Effect
- **PD 2:** Gross Locomotor Movement Skills
- **ATL 1:** Engagement, Attention, and Persistence

# PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES



## **4. Seed Investigation**

**Age:** Preschool

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children observe, touch, and compare different seeds using magnifiers. Encourage discussion about similarities and differences.

### **Materials:**

- Variety of seeds
- Magnifying glasses
- Sorting trays

### **Recommended Setting:**

Table work area

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Seed
- Compare
- Observe
- Similar
- Different

### **Extended Activities:**

- Sort seeds by size or color
- Predict what each seed will grow into

### **Open-Ended Questions:**

- What do you notice about this seed?
- How are these seeds the same or different?

### **Make It Easier:**

- Use only two types of seeds

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Record observations with drawings

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **MATH 2:** Classification
- **SCI 2:** Inquiry Through Observation and Investigation
- **SCI 3:** Documentation and Communication of Inquiry

## **5. Planting Engineers**

**Age:** Preschool

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children plant seeds and discuss what plants need to grow. Adults support children in sequencing the steps.

### **Materials:**

- Soil
- Pots
- Seeds
- Water

### **Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor garden or indoor planting station

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Plant
- Soil
- Roots
- Grow

### **Extended Activities:**

- Chart plant growth over time
- Compare different growing conditions

### **Open-Ended Questions:**

- What do plants need to grow?
- What might happen if we forget to water?

### **Make It Easier:**

- Pre-fill pots with soil

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Experiment with sunlight vs. shade

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **MATH 5:** Measurement
- **ATL 2:** Curiosity, Interest, and Initiative
- **FLD 2:** Using Language (Expressive)

## **6. Garden Sorting**

**Age:** Preschool

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children sort garden materials such as leaves, rocks, and seeds using self-selected rules.

### **Materials:**

- Leaves
- Small rocks
- Seeds
- Sorting trays

### **Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor table or classroom

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Sort
- Group
- Texture
- Size

### **Extended Activities:**

Change sorting rules

Graph quantities

### **Open-Ended Questions:**

- Why did you put these together?
- Could we sort them another way?

### **Make It Easier:**

- Sort by one attribute

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Sort by two attributes

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **MATH 2:** Classification
- **ATL 1:** Engagement, Attention, and Persistence
- **FLD 3:** Shared Communication and Conversation

## **7. Measuring Plant Growth**

**Age:** Preschool

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children measure plants using nonstandard tools and track changes over time.

### **Materials:**

- Rulers or cubes
- Plants
- Chart paper

### **Recommended Setting:**

Garden area

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Measure
- Taller
- Shorter
- Growth

### **Extended Activities:**

● Create a growth chart

● Compare plants

### **Open-Ended Questions:**

- What changed since yesterday?
- Which plant grew the most?

### **Make It Easier:**

- Measure once

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Record data daily

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **SCI 1:** Cause and Effect
- **SCI 2:** Inquiry Through Observation and Investigation
- **SCI 3:** Documentation and Communication of Inquiry

## **8. Bug Observation Station**

**Age:** Preschool

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children observe insects respectfully using containers or pictures and discuss their features.

### **Materials:**

- Bug viewers
- Pictures of insects

### **Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor garden

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Insect
- Observe
- Antennae

### **Extended Activities:**

- Draw insects
- Compare bugs

### **Open-Ended Questions:**

- What do you notice about this bug?
- How does it move?

### **Make It Easier:**

- Use pictures only

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Compare two insects

## **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**



- **SCI 2:** Inquiry Through Observation and Investigation
- **FLD 2:** Using Language (Expressive)

## **9. Sun and Shade Exploration**

**Age:** Preschool

### **Description / Instructions:**

Children explore sunny and shaded areas and describe temperature differences.

### **Materials:**

- Thermometer (optional)

### **Recommended Setting:**

Outdoor space

### **Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Sun
- Shade
- Warm
- Cool

### **Extended Activities:**

- Track the sun's movement

### **Open-Ended Questions:**

- Where does it feel warmer?
- Why do you think that is?

### **Make It Easier:**

- Focus on feeling only

### **Make It More Advanced:**

- Measure temperature

### **DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **SCI 2:** Inquiry Through Observation and Investigation
- **SCI 3:** Documentation and Communication of Inquiry

## **10. Design a Garden**

**Age:** Preschool

**Description / Instructions:**

Children draw or build a garden design and explain their ideas.

**Materials:**

Paper

● Crayons or blocks  
●

**Recommended Setting:**

Art or construction area

**Advanced Vocabulary:**

- Design
- Plan
- Build

**Extended Activities:**

- Build a model garden

**Open-Ended Questions:**

- What would you plant?
- Why did you choose that?

**Make It Easier:**

- Draw freely

**Make It More Advanced:**

- Label parts of the garden

**DRDP 2025 Measures Targeted:**

- **ATL 3:** Problem-Solving
- **ATL 4:** Planning
- **FLD 2:** Using Language (Expressive)