

Read & Seed – Earth Day

Description: Earth Day is April 22 and we are so excited to help you celebrate the Earth! During this virtual Read & Seed we will read *Takiya and Thunderheart's Life Garden* by J. Victor McGuire and Gershom Griffith, participate in a movement, and plant a seed. This lesson is aimed at connecting young learners to their natural world and promote school readiness skills.

Time: 45 minutes

Materials:

- Soil
- Seeds and their seed pack
- Upcycled container for planting with holes at the bottom so water can drain (ideas: can, yogurt container, plastic cup)
- Items to decorate container with
- Water if watering immediately

Book: *Takiya and Thunderheart's Life Garden* by J. Victor McGuire and Gershom Griffith



Movement/Music/Finger Play: Earth Day

To the tune of: "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star"

Earth Day, Earth Day,
Comes once a year.
But we should make our message clear.
Love and clean our Earth each day.
Make that plan a plan to stay.
Earth Day, Earth Day,
Comes once a year.
Love and care for our earth so dear.

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Instructions:

1. **Decorate planting container** with craft materials found around the house.
2. **Read the back of the seed packet** to learn what your individual seed needs. How much sun, how much water, how deep to plant and how much space it will need.
3. **Add soil to the planting container** that has holes in the bottom so water can drain out
4. **Make a small hole** in the soil to the depth the seed packet says.
5. The child should **place one or two seeds in the hole and cover them with soil.**
6. Tell children to **water the soil when it looks dry.** They can tell when the growing plants need water by sticking their fingers one inch into the soil. If it feels dry, then watering is necessary. Tell children that when they water the plant, they should add enough water so that it starts to come out of the hole at the bottom of the cup.
7. When the plant becomes too big for the container or it is warm enough outside, they can **take their plant and plant it outside** in their garden, in a larger bucket, can or milk jug in a sunny window or on a deck/patio, in a garden or even in a public park. Shhhh...they can be guerilla gardeners.
8. After the plants have started to sprout, they will be able to see the different parts of a plant. **Go over the different plant parts** that will emerge. Make sure that the child can name these parts and describe their functions:
 - **Root:** Anchors the plant and takes in water and nutrients from the soil.
 - **Stem:** Helps support the plant.
 - **Leaves:** Take in light, which the plant will use to make its own food.



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Nature Connection: Participate in the City Nature Challenge!

Cities around the world, including Northern Colorado, will be posting observations of nature and engaging people in their outdoor surroundings in late April.

How to Participate:

1. **Find wildlife** - It can be any plant, animal, or any other evidence of life found in your city.
2. **Take a picture** - Take a picture of what you find. Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.
3. **Share!** - Share your observations through iNaturalist.

From April 24-27, 2020, you can make observations like these using the free [inaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/) app and they will be automatically added to NoCo's tally. For more information visit <https://citynaturechallenge.org/> and <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-northern-colorado>.

If technology isn't your thing, we have also included an easy Earth Day Nature Walk that you can use to get outside and explore with your family!

Earth Day Nature Walk

