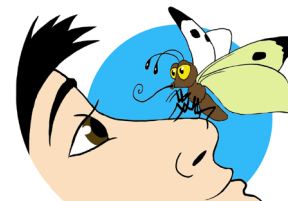




Children discover that plants need to drink, that they grow and they feel.

Plants and Me



Keywords experiment • growth chart • storytelling • seed sowing

- 1 The children discover three similarities between themselves and plants, starting with how plants drink. Bring to class a potted carnation with white flowers and put a good amount of food colouring (blue or red for best effect) in its water before watering. Do this until the flowers turn blue or red. Ask the children what they think happened. Ask what the plant must have under the soil for the coloured water to get to the flower. They should arrive at 'straws'. You can show them a pot plant that has outgrown its pot and whose roots are packed at the bottom (herbs like mint are easy for this).
 - 2 Discuss what happens to our bodies when we eat and drink (we grow). Do the children think that plants are like us? They now know that plants drink through their roots.
 - 3 The children keep record of plants in their classroom (the forest around the frieze) by keeping a growth chart. Compare how fast the children grow and plants grow, and that some plants grow taller than others (like people). Make links between people and plants through the growth chart.
 - 4 Read the story *The Three Pine Cones* (**Resource File**) about three friends who go for a walk in the forest and bring some pine cones home. Let the children dramatise as you read. Have three open pine cones with you – make sure to tell the children you picked these from the ground not from a tree, and that you checked there were no minibeasts inside. You can use the story boards in the **Resource File** to help illustrate your story.
 - 5 This exercise shows the children that plants feel. Sow sunflower seeds in a pot or space in your school garden – you may use tips in the **Resource File** – and watch your plants grow. Make a big deal of every stage of the plants' growth. Compare them with growing children. When the flowers emerge, show how they turn towards the light. Keep record of this change in the flowers' position.
- Another (and faster) way of showing plants growing towards light is by sowing common vetch (*gilbiena*) in the dark, but with a difference – see *Experiment* in the **Resource File**.

Use the Dinja Wahda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of children

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| ☐ doing water experiments | ☐ listening to story |
| ☐ keeping and comparing plant growth chart with their own | ☐ growing sunflower seeds |

