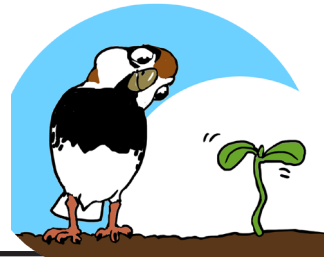




Children learn to observe
and record wild plant
growth and development.

Nature's Magic 2



Keywords observation • keeping records • crafts and creativity

- 1 Your wild plants will be increasing, changing, flowering, seeding and withering throughout the first and second terms. You will be taking the children to the Soil Magic place regularly to see the changes. Never lose that sense of wonder about the way life emerged from handfuls of what seemed like 'just soil'.
- 2 Once you are confident that the children have regard for the soil as something very special, you can now develop some science skills: theorising, observing and recording. How do the children think the plants grew? Lead them to understand that soil contains seeds that are 'asleep'. "What makes them wake up?"
Link with weather topics and people's routines to help the children understand that we are part of nature and that we too behave a bit like seeds.
- 3 Find the best way to record what you observe. Here are some ideas:
 - The children invent a symbol for wild plants, which they draw, copy and cut out, then stick onto a Soil Magic chart.
 - Focus on shapes and patterns of leaves and 'assemble' leaves from triangles, circles, squares, etc., matching the shapes with particular plants.
 - Have a frieze with days of the week and stick symbols for clouds, sun, rain, wind on each day according to the weather, then take a photo of the Soil Magic Boxes every week and stick them on relevant day.
 - Create a 'replica in miniature' container in class and use coloured-in matchsticks and other objects to represent wild plants, each different object representing a different plant.

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

Send photos of

☐ children counting and making observations of plants

☐ your chosen way of children's record-keeping

