



How to water plants

This activity will guide learners through identifying which areas need watering, how to water plants correctly, and checking on their plants to help them grow and stay healthy.

Teaching time

10-20 minutes

Learning outcomes

- recognise that plants need water to grow
- understand how to water plants carefully and effectively
- practice sequencing numbers to ten

Step by step

Support learners to fill their watering cans, watering devices or bottles carefully with water.

Take a look at areas around your site and help learners to choose a bed, area or particular crop that needs watering – children can dip their finger in the soil to feel how moist the soil is and if plants need watering. Encourage them to stick to this area to ensure it is watered thoroughly.

Show learners how to water the soil at the base of the plants, not the leaves, or higher up the plant. Explain that it is the roots of the plants that take up most of the water, they are like ‘underground drinking straws’. Watering the leaves of the plants is not beneficial and can cause scorching, especially on sunny days.

Whilst watering, count slowly to ten before moving along to the next plant.

Teach younger learners this watering song to sing as they go to help them time their watering, as well as practice number sequencing:

1,2,3,4,5, water keeps our plants alive,

6,7,8,9,10 to be sure we will do it again,

Why do we water so?

Water helps our plants to grow.

If we count we'll get it right, then our plants will be a sight.

Green Skills



Suitable for

Early Years
Key Stage 1

Location

Outdoors

Season

Spring
Summer

What you'll need

Small watering cans, homemade watering devices from milk bottles, or bottle top waterers and recycled plastic bottles

Water butts, outside tap or buckets filled with water

Key vocabulary

Roots
Soil
Moisture

Support and extension opportunities

Sink plant pots or upside down bottles with the bottoms cut off in the soil next to thirsty plants, such as pumpkins and soft fruit. Learners can direct their watering into these reservoirs and watch the water sink slowly into the soil

Create a watering schedule or assign ‘plant monitors’ to ensure the plants stay hydrated



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