



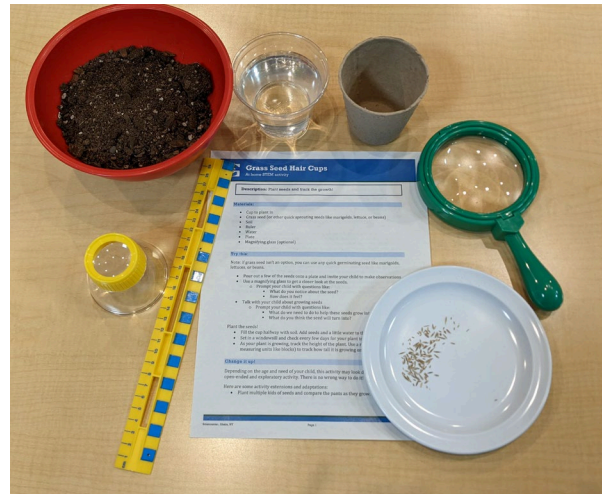
Sciencenter At-Home: Grass Seed Hair Cups

Measure your plant's growth!

In this activity, learners will plant grass seed and track the growth of the grass over time.

Materials:

- Cup to plant in
- Grass seed (or other quick sprouting seeds like marigolds, lettuce, or beans)
- Soil
- Ruler
- Water
- Plate
- Magnifying glass (optional)



Try this:

Note: if grass seed isn't an option, you can use any quick germinating seed like marigolds, lettuces, or beans.

Pour out a few of the seeds onto a plate and invite your child to make observations.

Use a magnifying glass to get a closer look at the seeds. Prompt your child with questions like:

- What do you notice about the seed?
- How does it feel?

Talk with your child about growing seeds. Prompt your child with questions like:

- What do we need to do to help these seeds grow into plants?
- What do you think the seed will turn into?



Plant the seeds!

Fill the cup halfway with soil. Add seeds and a little water to the soil.

Set in a windowsill and check every few days for your plant to sprout!

As your plant is growing, track the height of the plant. Use a ruler (or non-standard measuring units like blocks) to track how tall it is growing on the included chart!



Change it up!

Depending on the age and need of your child, this activity may look different. This is an open-ended and exploratory activity. There is no wrong way to do it!

Here are some activity extensions and adaptations:

- Plant multiple kinds of seeds and compare the plants as they grow.
- Try experimenting with what plants need to grow. Plant multiple pots and change some of the variables like amounts of sunlight, water or air.
- Some children may not be ready to measure yet. Check on the plant every few days and notice changes.
- If you're using grass seed, give your plant a haircut! What changes do you notice over the next few days?

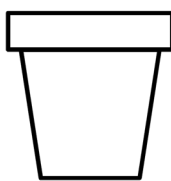
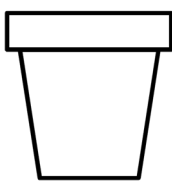
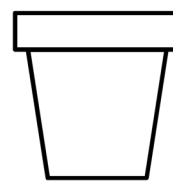
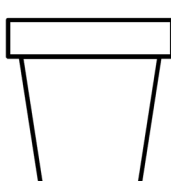
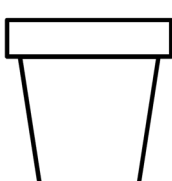
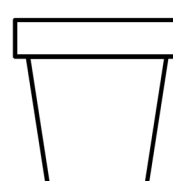
Science process skills

This activity focuses on building the skills to participate in science over the science content itself. This activity highlights skills like making observations and measuring over the course of the experiment.

We observe objects and events using our senses. While observations made only with the senses are qualitative, they help us gather information and learn about the world. Building observations skills help children expand on other science process skills like categorizing and making predictions. When guiding your child through this activity, encourage them to draw their observations. Have them compare the plant to their past observations. Ask them if anything has changed.

Measuring allows us to make quantitative observations. We can use tools that have specific units or count and add numbers to our observations. Combining measuring and observation skills allows learners to get a better understanding of the plant that they're studying. When tracking the growth of the plant, encourage your child to make quantitative observations. They can measure the height of the plant, count the number of leaves, or compare the number of sprouts between pots. Have them record this observation alongside the others!

What did you notice about your plant today?

<p>Day: _____ How tall did your plant grow?</p> <hr/> 	<p>Day: _____ How tall did your plant grow?</p> <hr/> 	<p>Day: _____ How tall did your plant grow?</p> <hr/> 
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This activity exists in many versions. This adaptation was inspired by Measuring: Grass Seed Hair Cups from the Collaborative for Early Science Learning copyright 2021, Sciencenter, Ithaca NY.
Retrieved from: <http://www.sciencenter.org/perch/resources/measuring-3.pdf>