

Starters for Science: Y1 Plants

Starters for Science are 4 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science alongside the key learning and vocabulary children are using at school. The activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to learn and talk about their science topic. Encourage children to use the correct vocabulary as they talk about what they are doing and finding out. Don't forget to share your work on social media

#ScienceFromHome

Key Learning:

In your local area, there will be a wide variety of plants which are growing.

There may be wild plants, garden plants and trees.

These all have specific names which can be identified by their key characteristics through using identification keys.

Some trees will be deciduous, which means their leaves fall off seasonally, usually in the Autumn, and regrow in the Spring.

Evergreen trees keep their leaves all year round.

Plant structures include leaves, flowers (blossom), petals, fruit, roots, bulb, seeds, trunk, branches and stem.

Many plants have their parts in common, but the way they look may differ from plant to plant. It is interesting to observe plants carefully and look for the difference in the varieties you see.

Vocabulary:

plants
local environment
wild plants
garden plants
deciduous/
evergreen trees
leaf
flower (blossom)
petal
fruit
berry
root
bulb
seed
trunk
branch
stem

Trees

Can you see any trees on a walk in your local area or from your window? Are they deciduous or evergreen trees? How can you tell? Can you name them? You can use some of the Tree-ID sheets here <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/tree-id-kids/>

Thinking walk

Plan a thinking walk near your home. Plan it so you will pass a lot of different types of plants. Look at the plants carefully. Can you see some things that are similar? What is different? Can you record the similarities and differences in a notebook? <https://www.stem.org.uk/rx33ht>

Spot the plant

Use the Great Plant Hunt identikit to see if you have any of the plants in your local area. Can you sketch one of the plants? <https://www.stem.org.uk/rx33hu>

Grow a seed, make some seeds

Plant a sunflower seed in the Spring. As it grows, can you name the plant parts? You will get a flower full of many seeds. Why not save them and grow one again next year.

If it's not the Spring, don't worry! Why not grow some cress on your windowsill? <https://www.stem.org.uk/rxwtxt>