

## Gardening

Gardening is a familiar, enjoyable activity which can easily be created indoors. It offers a wide range of activities ranging from pure multisensory experiences including sounds, smells and flavours, to exploring the life of a plant from seed to being fully grown, how to plant and care for vegetables and flowers, how plants give us food and medicines.

### Accessing the activity

Create an allotment area using a paddling pool base, filled with fine, dry compost. Add to this:

- Small trowels, forks, sieves, flowerpots
  - Variety of vegetables - carrots, potatoes, beans, cabbage, onions,
  - Variety of herbs - thyme, basil, sage, oregano, watering cans.
  - Baskets and trays
  - Bowls of sunflower seeds and white beans
  - Rainsticks
  - Hang flowerpots to make a simple xylophone
  - A flowerpot puppet and a scarecrow character
  - Incorporate costumes such as gardening hats, neckerchiefs and aprons
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- Feel, smell, dig, pour and sieve the compost.
  - Bury hands and feet and fill flowerpots.
  - Dig up carrots and potatoes, find other veg - transfer into baskets, feeling different textures, shapes and smells.
  - Add various herb plants, feel and smell them, and plant them in the compost, then water them in.
  - Meet the flowerpot puppet and play the flowerpot instrument.
  - Explore the different sound/textural qualities of seeds and beans by pouring into different containers.
  - Fill pots and bowls, plant them one by one into seed trays, and then water with rainsticks to make them grow.
  - The cowardly scarecrow visits the garden, hiding from the crows. He's come to play and greets each individual, assisting with tasks, dancing, making friends.

### Links

Beans and seeds (Props)

Puppets and masks (Props)

Characters (Activities)

Workshops – American Gothic, Iris Garden

### Videos

American Gothic