

Learning from Home: The Needs of Plants

It's Spring! Lots of things are growing – including your children! Plants are growing too, so here's a lesson to help your child learn what a plant needs to stay alive.

1. Hold Control and click the singing flower to watch and listen to a video song.



Encourage your child to **name** the 5 things that a plant needs after watching the video. Celebrate the ones he/she can remember. If your child forgets one, try giving them a clue to help them answer. (Eg. "I like to drink this after I exercise. What is it? -water)

2. Help your child **write** each plant need on 5 small pieces of paper. (water, air, soil, space, light) You can help by sounding out the letters, naming a letter that is still needed, or by letting him/her spell as much as they can on their own even if it's spelled incorrectly. ("Invented" spelling in Kindergarten is encouraged and very age-appropriate.)
3. Help your child write something a plant does **not** need on 3 more small pieces of paper. (Eg. Lego, pizza etc.) Ask your child to gather all 8 small pieces of paper, mix them up, and put them into a pile.
4. Now the best part – *YOU get to be the "Lethbridge wind."* Blow the pile of small paper pieces all over the table or pick them up and throw them all over the floor! Have fun!

Ask your child to **run around and gather** all the paper pieces. Challenge your child to **sort** the words he/she wrote by putting them back into 2 correct piles: what a plant needs / what a plant does not need.

5. Your child would probably agree to do it again if this time your **CHILD** gets to be the "wind." (repetition helps your child's brain recall information) He/she gets to throw the papers all over while you scramble to gather them into piles again! Who can sort the fastest?
6. Art enrichment: Hold Control and click the flower. This video shows your child how to draw **3 Spring flowers with step-by-step instruction**. He/she will need a black Sharpie (or any marker) and a blank piece of paper. (It helps to put another paper underneath so that the marker doesn't come through onto your table.) Enjoy!

