



Home/Garden Connection

A Post-Visit Lesson to *Heaps of Seeds*

Dear Parents,

Your child visited the Missouri Botanical Garden today and participated in a garden class called, “Heaps of Seeds.” During their field trip, your child:

- Dissected a lima bean seed.
- Labeled the parts of a lima bean seed which include the seed coat, the root, the leaves, and the food (cotyledon).
- Compared the parts of a lima bean seed with the parts of a three-week-old lima bean seedling.
- Learned that all plants need air, water, and sun to grow, while only some plants need soil to grow.
- Observed and identified different kinds of seeds that come in all colors, shapes, and sizes.
- Learned that seeds can be dispersed by wind, by water, by clinging to an animal’s fur, or by being eaten and passed through an animal.
- Planted a basil seed to take care of at home.
- Went on a seed hunt throughout the garden.
- Played a “Seed Scramble” game in which they had to match a picture of a seed with the way the seed is dispersed.
- Collected and counted seeds in the prairie.

Family Game: “What’s My Seed?”

Using the seeds your child has collected from their field trip today, play the following game:

1. Have your child spread out their seeds onto a table.
2. Ask your child to mentally pick a seed from their pile on the table, but not to tell you which one they have secretly chosen.
3. The parent will try to guess which seed your child has chosen by asking a series of “yes” or “no” questions.
4. Continue playing until you have correctly guessed your child’s “secret” seed.
5. Then, switch roles and play again.

Math: “How Many Seeds?”

Using the seeds your child has collected from their field trip today, help your child practice their math skills with the following activity:

1. Have your child spread out their seeds onto a table.
2. Ask your child to count out how many total seeds they have.
3. Take away five seeds and have your child total up their seeds again.
4. Continue to add and take away different amounts of seeds in order to help your child practice their addition and subtraction skills.
5. As an extension, you can have your child tell you how many small seeds they have, how many red seeds they have, how many furry seeds they have, etc.

Cooking: Using Basil

Once your basil plant has grown to its full adult size, you can pinch off a few leaves to add to your favorite spaghetti sauce. Your family will love the delicious flavor that your basil plant brings to their meal!