

HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Issue 44 – Growing

compiled by Topsy Page www.topsypage.com



photo of Cambodian rice farmers by Brad Collis, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Note to parents/carers and teachers

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week
message bobhouse@dialogueworks.co.uk

This week's focus is growing

Growing your own food is like printing your own money!



Ron Finley
urban food-growing activist

Plants give so much. They are beautiful to look at, nutritious to eat, exceptional at curing health issues, they provide homes & food for wildlife and SO much more.

Ellen Mary
gardening influencer

The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.



Gertrude Jekyll
garden designer

I'm just as happy growing cabbages as the rarest plant in the world.



Monty Don
TV gardener

Ron Finley quote from <https://livebyquotes.com/2014/growing-your-own-food-is-like-printing-your-own-money-ron-finley/>
Monty Don quote from <https://empressofdirtnet.net/gardening-monty-don/>
Ellen Mary quote from <https://www.ellenmarygardening.co.uk/plants-for-wellbeing-1>
Gertrude Jekyll quote from https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Gertrude_Jekyll
Monty Don photo by jo-h, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons
Ron Finley photo by US Embassy New Zealand, public domain
Gertrude Jekyll portrait by William Nicholson, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Thinking about growing

Caring thinking

How can I help a plant to grow strong and healthy?

Collaborative thinking

Who is involved in making sure I have fruit and vegetables to eat?



Creative thinking

How could I use plants to make something beautiful or useful?

Critical thinking

Should humans decide which plants grow where?

Have you noticed any plants around you growing bigger?

What plants could you grow?

What do trees and grass have in common?



Think **AHEAD**

Think **BACK**

CONNECT



DIVIDE

LISTEN/LOOK

ZOOM (in/out)

What are the differences between how plants grow and how animals grow?

How many plants can you see growing in your neighbourhood – including very small ones?

Why should humans care about seeds?

What does a seed do when it first starts to grow?

Discussion suggestions (age 3-5)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/gRS80BqZ0dc>

Time-lapse

This video shows how peppers grow. It is sped up to show four months in three minutes, so we can easily see what happens.

Talking Points

- What changes happen as the plant grows?
- What does the plant make itself out of?
- Would you rather watch a plant grow at normal speed in real life, or sped up on a video?

Activity

- Try planting a seed from a pepper (or a tomato) in some soil or compost. You will need to leave it in a warm place and keep it slightly damp. See if you get a little plant.
- If you don't have any compost, you could still put your seed on some damp tissue paper in a warm place and see if it tries to grow.

Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/wHMJjI9CtMQ>

This video was made by someone who lives in a flat but wants a garden. Maybe someone else has a garden they could use?

(Note to grown-ups: We aren't suggesting you contact them – it's just for discussion.)

Talking Points

- Why do some people like to have a garden?
- Do you know anyone who doesn't have a garden, but still grows things?
- Should everybody be able to have a garden if they want one?

Activities

- Find some green spaces near where you live and have a look at them. Decide which ones you like, and why.
- If you know somebody who looks after a garden, offer to help them for an hour or two.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/Angaelf78AQ>

The man who grew his own rainforest...

Talking Points

- What does the word 'development' mean in the video?
- Restoring a rainforest: good idea / bad idea?
- If you had \$250, would you rather spend it on restoring a rainforest, or something else?

Activity

- Watch this video about making a mini-rainforest in a jar: <https://youtu.be/y0u9k-MSo8U>.
- There may be some words you don't understand – try looking them up.
- Try making your own terrarium rainforest.

➤ More about HomeTalk, including previous editions

➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children

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