

Ways to Promote Language Through Gardening

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Gardening is a great interactive activity that not only gets your child outside for some fresh air, but also targets a variety of language skills including:

1. Introducing your child to new vocabulary words: As you start gardening, talk about what tools you need, how plants grow, and discuss the different parts of a plant. Some examples include: watering can, wheel barrow, sprout, soil, gardener, roots, sunlight, stems, petals, and leaves.
2. Targeting sequencing skills: Take pictures of each step you complete, along with the growing plant and have the child sequence the pictures in order from first to last. This skill is essential for developing critical thinking skills, which is necessary for success in the academic setting.
3. Teaching categorization skills: Talk about each seed or gardening item you have and discuss each category. Some examples include: vegetables, fruits, flowers, and tools. These skills help a child organize his thoughts and share information logically.
4. Making inferences and predicting: Try and guess which plant will grow the fastest, talk about what changes you see and what changes may happen over the next few days. It's always fun to make guesses and see if you are right! A great interactive activity that really keeps children engaged.

