

Beavers My World Challenge Award

Do At Least Three Of These Things: Junk Modelling, Pond Dipping, Mini-Beast Hunting, Growing Something From Seeds, Leaf Printing, Something Similar Agreed With Your Leader

Growing Carrots[©]

By Samantha Eagle

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Growing Carrots©

Overview

What I thought would be good is for the kids to grow some 'Carrots' as a group or individually depending on your budget. Carrots are one of the easiest vegetables to grow indoors, and the indoor carrot garden will be attractive as well. Although they take 60 days to grow the children can see the foliage quite quickly and if you remind them every week that there's something coming I think it will be really exciting for them. Then they can take home their very first home grown carrot.

Below you will see my detailed instructions and options for looking after the carrots.



Preparation Before The Meeting

1. Gather, borrow or ask for donations for the materials
2. Print out the care instructions for the children – found in this document (you only need this if you have decided to go with individual pots for each child to take home)

Materials Needed

Please note that the materials needed for this little project will depend on your budget and how you want to manage the project. So for example, you may want to just grow one large container and you look after between your meetings or you may want each child to have their own container to take home. So this decision will dictate the amount you need

- **Carrot seeds** (the tiny variety unless you want to use deep containers then you can buy the regular ones)
- **Containers** at least 8 inches for shorter carrots and 1 foot for the regular ones. I'm sure that between the leaders and parents you should be able to get this item for zero cost. Make sure the pots have good drainage
 - If you have a previously used container, wash it out with warm water and soap. Bacteria and insect eggs often hide inside used containers and may infect your carrot plants.
- Good quality **Potting Soil** enough to fill your chosen container(s). Carrots prefer looser, lighter soil
- **Water** with a spray bottle
- **Newspaper** to cover your tables

Preparation At The Meeting

1. Cover your tables with newspaper
2. Split your seeds to give to each child. Take a pinch and put them onto some tissue paper.

Directions/Leader Speak

1. **Speak** - Our next task for the 'My World Challenge Award' is to grow something from seeds. I thought it would be a good idea to grow our very own carrots. I like carrots because you can eat them cooked but also they are very tasty raw. Also they contain lots of vitamins a common one you may know is Vitamin C so you can see they are very good for you
2. **Direction** - The following instructions assume that each child is going to grow their own carrots. Group your children into small teams and assign a leader/helper to each team

Sowing the Seeds

1. Fill the pot with the potting soil to within an inch of the top and moisten the soil
2. Using your finger poke holes in the soil about half an inch (13 millimeters) deep and spaced three inches (76 millimeters) apart
3. Hand the children their seeds and tell them to be very careful because they are so tiny
4. Drop 2 or 3 carrot seeds in each hole (don't be tempted to drop more!)
5. Lightly drop the soil into the holes. Do not pack it into the holes because you may crush the seeds
6. Use a spray bottle to thoroughly water the seeds but do not saturate the soil though.



Care Directions

1. Place your pot in a location that receives partial sun and partial shade
2. Keep them lightly watered but not too wet while they grow. The top few inches of soil should stay moist all the time
3. If you water them too much, you'll rid the soil of nutrients. If you underwater them, the carrots won't grow at all. Use a lolly stick as a test before you water. If soil sticks to the stick when you place it in, then you don't add water
4. Once the greens have reached about an inch in height cut them off at the soil using scissors until only one seedling remains in each hole, do not pull out the seedling because it will disrupt the soil and damage the roots of the remaining plants
5. If the plant seems bent add some soil around it because the roots may not form correctly if the stems are bent. And if the carrot starts peeping through add some soil on top
 - a. If the children are creating their carrots individually to take care of them at home then to adhere to step 5 you would need to send them off with a little bag of extra soil

Harvest

1. The different varieties of baby carrots are ready to harvest in 55 to 65 days after planting.
2. Grasp the greens near the top and gently wiggle them out of the soil when they're about 1/2 inch in diameter. You can also just pull one out to see if it's the size you want

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