



# Early Years Worksheets

## Compost

### Early Years Worksheets: Plastic plant pots!



#### Learning objective

Children will learn how to plant seeds using reused plastic pots, discover what compost is made from and develop an understanding of natural cycles.



#### Early Learning Goals

- **Understanding the world – ELG The natural world:** to understand changing states of matter and help foster life.
- **Personal, social, and emotional development- ELG self-regulation:** must listen attentively to the instructions. Communication about the subject of nature as a group.



**Time required** 30-45 minutes.

#### Resources

- Empty, clean yogurt pots or other suitable plastic tubs rescued from your recycling
- Seeds (beans, lentils or sunflowers are good)
- Soil or compost (ideally from a school garden)
- Leaves, twigs, fruit waste and potato peelings
- Pen, felt tip and scissors (for the teacher)
- Spoon
- Tray for the pots
- Water



#### Introduction to activity

Show an image of a plant and seed and ask children where plants come from. Explain the plant comes from the seed.

Allow the children to feel and touch compost – ask what it is made from, see if they can guess it is made from the leaves, twigs and fruit and vegetable peelings.

## Main activity

1. Using the scissors make some holes in the bottom of the plastic pots for drainage.
2. Give the pot to the pupil and help them use a spoon to scoop compost into the plastic plant pot.
4. Cover the seeds with some more compost.
5. Write the name of the pupil on the plant pot with a felt tip pen.
6. Help the pupil water the pots and keep the compost damp.
7. Place on a saucer or tray and put in a warm windowsill or in a greenhouse.
8. Seeds should take 2-12 days to germinate.
9. Plant out in a pot on a classroom windowsill or school garden when the seedlings have at least four leaves.



## Discussion

- With pictures show the children what happens to the seed when planted.
- Explain that when a plant grows it produces more seeds and they fall on the soil.
- Discuss how they could make their own compost at home – maybe some of them have a compost heap or Dalek style composter at home in their gardens.



## Extension activity

Keep a record with the children of how fast each plant grows, to help explain to the children what plants need to live – sunshine, water and soil.



## How is this related to waste and recycling?

The lifecycle of the plant needs soil or compost for nutrients – which humans get from their food. The best type of compost is that made from your own garden or food waste. Additionally, developing a connection to nature is an important factor in understanding why we should reduce waste and protect the environment.

## Extra links

Check out our guides to composting: [Composting - Zone \(recycledevon.org\)](https://zone.recycledevon.org)

For a video explanation: [Activities at Home: Making Plant Pots - YouTube](#)

