

UNIT 6: *Things that Grow*
A Special Math Note
Looking Backward and Stretching Forward

Unit 6 connects math concepts and activities across units, as well exploring the math that children will experience in kindergarten. Each week includes links to activities and books from earlier units. The Provocations, Strategies, Adaptations and Documentation sections of the activity plans suggest ways to connect, reinforce, and/or expand children’s thinking around key math concepts.

Although all *Math for ME* Units encourage children to use their math skills and knowledge, Unit 6 is especially designed to encourage analysis, evaluation, creation, and application to deepen authentic understanding and synthesis of math thinking in the problems that are presented. For example, in Week 1, children are invited to brainstorm about how they could create a People Flower Garden. There are many ways it could be done...How do children approach the problem? What skills do they use? In Week 2, the creative book/activity *One Big Salad* combines art and math while reinforcing the kindergarten-focused skills of counting on and counting back.

While there is a strong role for review and reinforcement in Unit 6, key concepts are not merely repeated but used in innovative ways. It is the process of math thinking that has been emerging all year that you will see as children dive into these activities. Experimentation, struggling with “wrong” answers, and encouragement of “many ways to solve a problem” are the bywords for Unit 6. These mathematical practices lead to creating vigorous math-thinkers. Honoring all children’s work and levels of understanding is essential to helping children enter kindergarten with positive images of themselves as capable math thinkers. (See *Where’s the Math? Empowering Young Mathematicians* for more ideas).

Week 5: Use Week 5 activities to extend into the remaining weeks of the school year. Week 5 has 2 Suggested Large Groups. Small Group activities should be pulled from the List of Favorites and repeated.

Enjoy!