



Preparing Soil



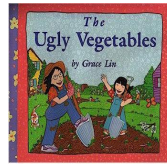
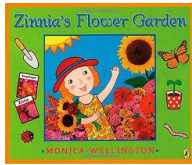
Discovery

Standards:

SED.SD.BRC.PS.1-3

ELA.LS.VAU.PS.1-3

S.LS.PS.1


Materials:

- *Zinnia's Flower Garden*
- *The Ugly Vegetables*
- bin of soil
- small rakes, trowels, forks
- small tongs or tweezers
- sifters
- trays
- magnifying glasses
- Beautiful Stuff, i.e., cleaned plastic bottle caps, pebbles, bits of paper, etc. added to soil

Vocabulary:

- soil
- plant
- prepare
- garden
- aerate
- sift
- seed

Preparation: Set up materials.

Intro to Centers:

"In *Zinnia's Flower Garden* and *The Ugly Vegetables*, Zinnia, the girl, and her mother **planted seeds**. What do you notice?"

"They **prepared** the **soil** for their **gardens**. They used tools to **aerate**--make holes for air--and remove stones."

"Why do **gardeners prepare soil** before they plant?"

"Today in Discovery, you can use these tools to **prepare soil** with these tools. You can **aerate** the soil."

"You can **sift** the **soil**. What do you notice?"

Show illustrations.

Children respond.

Children respond.

Model 'aerate.'

Model 'sift'. Show children sifted materials.

During Centers:

Encourage children to sort, group, and label sifted materials. Encourage children to graph the groups of materials. Compare and contrast the groups of sifted materials to *Making Collections*. Encourage children to use magnifying glasses. Encourage children to document their observations in Writing And Drawing.

Guiding Questions during Centers:

- Why is it important to prepare soil?
- How is preparing soil similar to or different from *Making Collections*?
- How is preparing soil similar to or different from the illustrations in *Zinnia's Flower Garden/The Ugly Vegetables*?
- How can you document your observations?

Thinking & Feedback: Invite children to describe their processes. Ask children to share any challenges or highlights they experienced.

Documentation: Collect samples of the children's work as well as photographs and/or video of their process; use the documentation to launch a discussion during Thinking and Feedback.

Provocation:

Encourage children to use sifted materials in Art Studio, Blocks, and Dramatization.