Watch It Grow â?? Part One

Description

Description

This is the first day of the Watch It Grow activity. You will help each child decorate a flower pot.

Supplies

- Small plastic pot or cup for each child in the group (preferably lighter colored pot because they will be decorating them)
- Variety of paint
- Plates
- Tablecloth
- Sharpie
- A safe place for finished flower pots to dry

How to Play

1. **Prep Work**: Put a variety of paint colors on a plate for each child in your group. Write each childâ??s name on the bottom of a pot.
2. Talk to your group about how some bugs are really beneficial for plants to grow and be healthy.
3. Bug fast facts:
    - Lady Bugs: Help get rid of harmful bugs (aphids) that might live in a garden.
    - Bees: Help pollinate plants. Which means they help plants spread and create new plants.
    - Butterflies: Are also great pollinators but are different from bees because they can travel long distances.
    - Caterpillars: These arenâ??t the most helpful to gardens, but they are baby butterflies. Once they turn into butterflies they are super beneficial pollinators for a garden.

Support your students with the essential life skills they needâ??anytime, anywhere.

4. Tell your group that we are going to decorate our flower pots with all of these helpful bugs that we just learned about!
5. Explain to your group that we are using our fingerprints to paint on our flower pots today. Just like everyoneâ??s fingerprint is unique, everyoneâ??s flower pot will be unique as well!
6. Elaborate with your group and tell them that today we are doing the base of all these bugs. The next time we meet we will add wings to our bees, antennas to our butterflies, polka dots to our ladybugs and any other creative additions you can think of!
7. Show them the examples that are provided on page 3 so they see what the different bugs can look like, but tell the group to feel free to get creative and make their helpful bugs look however they would like.
8. Pass out plates with paint on them to each child.
9. Once children are finished painting, have them wash their hands and put their pots in a safe place to dry.
10. If time permits can have them do the Bugs and crawly things dance.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- What helped you focus during this activity?
- Was there anything that was difficult for you during this activity?
- Did anyone learn anything new during ths activity?
- Did anyone have a strength that they used during this activity?
- Did anyone come up with a unique way to decorate their pot?

Other Ways to Play

- Pass out paint one at a time to children, so that there is no paint wasted or spilled.
- Have children practice fingerprints on paper first, before they start working on flower pot finger painting.
- Have children share facts that they know about bugs/ insects before sharing the provided facts.
- If there are flowers or a garden close in the neighborhood, go with the children to look for any bugs they see and point them out.
- Allow them to use paintbrushes to decorate their flower pot. They can go beyond just the insects and decorate a landscape on their flower pot as well.

Additional Notes

- If you are worried about children getting paint on their clothes an easy and affordable apron is a large trash bag with holes cut out for their arms and head.
- Finger painting visual aid taken from: Rays of Bliss.
- Part two of this activity can be found here: Watch it Grow Pt. 2.
- Use the SEL Activity Prompts to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.

Category

1. Activities
2. Social Awareness

Sel-competency

1. Social Awareness

Allotted-time

1. 30 minutes

Themes

1. Arts and Crafts

Support your students with the essential life skills they needâ??anytime, anywhere.