

At home with childminders and parents

More creative and fun ideas to support your child's learning
that are linked to our theme of **'GROWTH'**

I am growing!

- Press leaves and flowers between sheets of kitchen paper in a heavy book. When they are completely dry, stick them to pretty coloured card to make a collage.
- Create a 'memorable moments' book to record significant events in your child's development.
- Put up a height chart to record your child's height (as well as that of other members of your family) and mark it in set intervals, such as every six months, to demonstrate their growth.
- Talk about the importance of hand washing/bath time routines.
- When preparing food, talk to your child about the value of a balanced diet in helping us to grow and, in particular, lots of fresh fruit and vegetables.
- When displaying recent photos of your child at home, talk about how they have changed since their last photo was taken.

Growing, growing, grown!

- Set your child little outdoor challenges while out on a walk, such as; *Run to the tree before I count to ten*, and so on.
- Visit an allotment or garden centre and talk about the different plants, equipment and seeds that are available.
- Plant flowers in a pot and encourage children to look after them.
- Try planting other easy-grow seeds, such as lettuce leaf selections, together with the cress and other sprouting seeds, and then enjoy eating them together when they have grown.
- Create a mini beanstalk using pipe cleaners, cardboard tubes and paper, which your child can use for imaginative play.

Caring for creatures

- Talk with the children about caring for any pets that you may have and describe what you are doing and why when you feed, clean and groom them.
- Plan a visit to a farm, or perhaps a wildlife rescue centre or bird sanctuary, during springtime when there are lots baby animals to observe.
- Visit the library or use the internet to find about different types of animals and their needs.

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