

# GROW

## Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! EARLY CHILDHOOD Week 2

### Seeds & Roots: Growing Carrots or Radishes

**Objectives:** Students will learn what is needed to make a plant grow by planting a container garden with carrot or radish seeds.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Materials/Prep:** Bag of all purpose potting soil, carrot or radish seeds, water in watering can, large pot/container with drainage holes in bottom, trash bag

#### Lesson Narrative:

1. We've been talking about seeds and roots this week. I have some seeds in my hand. Raise your hand if you can tell me what seeds can do. (They can grow into a plant.) We are going to plant these seeds and we'll be able to grow a plant with roots and other plant parts.
2. Spread trash bag on ground in front of students and have the container, bag of soil, shovel, water in watering can, and carrot seeds.
3. What do you think we are going to do with these supplies? (Plant the seeds and grow a plant.)
4. Ask questions as you fill container with soil. Why do plants need soil? (To hold the roots that are going to grow so the seed can grow into a whole plant.) Have students take turns pressing the soil down in the pot to get it ready for planting.
5. Next, pour the carrot or radish seeds into your hand. Have each student, one-by-one take a pinch of a few seeds and drop them into the top of soil. They should push in the seeds just below the surface of the soil. (As a general rule, seeds should be planted at a depth of twice their width.)
6. What do you think will happen to our seed? (It will grow into a plant). What kind of plant? (carrot/radish) How do you know? (We are planting a carrot/radish seed) Do you think it will grow in the room without sun? (no) Does the seed need anything else to grow? (point to the watering can if they need a hint)
7. Have students help to take the container outside to a sunny location and lightly water the soil to make it damp. Review that the carrots they will be growing need soil, water and sunlight to be able to grow.



PILOT DRAFT

#### Tips for growing carrots or radishes with your class:

- Place container in a location that gets at least 6-8 hours of sunlight per day.
- Lightly water daily, if needed, to keep soil and seeds damp for the first 2 weeks.
- These are cool season crops which grow best in cooler weather. Look on back of the seed packet to find planting dates for your area contact or your local County Extension office to find what time of year carrots and radishes can be grown.

#### Radishes:

Radishes are especially well-suited for school gardens because they grow so quickly! It takes less than a week for radish seeds to germinate and can be harvested in as little as 4 weeks.

#### Carrots:

It takes about 2 weeks for carrot seeds to germinate and 10 weeks of growing until they are ready for harvest

Pull the carrots when the orange tops are exposed and are at least the size of a dime. If the carrots have grown for at least 6 weeks and you don't see the orange tops, use your finger to gently brush away a thin layer of soil to see if it is hiding just below the surface.