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# Lesson Plan: The Magical Growing Seed

## Materials Needed:

- Book: "The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle (or another simple book about seeds/plants)
- A small plant pot (terracotta or plastic)
- Non-toxic, washable paints and paintbrushes
- Smock or old t-shirt to protect clothing
- Newspaper or a plastic tablecloth to cover the work surface
- Potting soil
- A small trowel or large spoon
- Easy-to-grow seeds (e.g., sunflowers, beans, or a simple herb like basil)
- Small watering can or a cup of water
- Paper and crayons/markers
- Magnifying glass (optional, for exploration)
- A "Garden Scavenger Hunt" checklist (can be pictures for a pre-reader: a green leaf, a flower, a smooth rock, a wiggly worm, a twig)

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## Lesson Overview:

This hands-on lesson guides the student through the journey of a seed, from exploration and discovery to creative expression and the practical application of planting. The focus is on doing, creating, and understanding the basic needs of a plant through an engaging, multi-sensory experience.

## Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Identify the three basic things a plant needs to grow (sun, water, soil).
- Follow simple, multi-step directions to plant their own seed.
- Use fine motor skills to paint, scoop soil, and handle a small seed.
- Express their creativity by designing and decorating their own plant pot.

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## Lesson Activities & Procedure (2 Hours Total)

### Part 1: Sparking Curiosity - The Story of a Seed (15 minutes)

1. **Introduction (5 min):** Start by asking some simple questions. "What do you think plants eat?" "Where do flowers come from?" "Have you ever seen a tiny seed?" Listen to their ideas with enthusiasm.
2. **Story Time (10 min):** Read "The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle. Pause at different pages to look at the pictures and talk about the seed's journey. Point out when the seed gets sun, water, and lands in the soil to grow. This introduces the core concepts in a gentle, narrative way.

### Part 2: Garden Explorer Adventure (30 minutes)

1. **Prepare for Adventure (5 min):** Introduce the "Garden Scavenger Hunt." Explain that you

are both going to be explorers looking for special things in the garden or yard. Go over the picture checklist together.

2. **Scavenger Hunt (25 min):** Head outside with the checklist and the magnifying glass. Help the student find each item. Encourage them to touch the different textures of leaves, soil, and rocks. If you find a worm, talk about how worms are helpers in the garden soil. This activity connects the lesson to the real world and encourages observation.

### Part 3: Creative Station - Design Your Plant's Home (45 minutes)

1. **Setup (5 min):** Lay down the newspaper or tablecloth. Put on smocks. Set out the pot, paints, and brushes.
2. **Decorating (20 min):** Let the student paint and decorate their pot however they wish. This is a time for pure creativity and ownership. They are making a special home for their seed. Talk about the colors they are choosing and the patterns they are making.
3. **Planting (20 min):** Once the pot is decorated (it doesn't have to be dry), it's time to plant! Guide the student through these simple steps, letting them do as much as possible:
  - Place the pot on a tray or newspaper.
  - Use the trowel or spoon to scoop soil into the pot until it's almost full.
  - Poke a small hole in the center of the soil with a finger (not too deep!).
  - Place one or two seeds into the hole.
  - Gently cover the seed with a little bit of soil.
  - Give the seed its first drink of water, just a little bit!
  - Place the pot in a sunny spot, like a windowsill.

### Part 4: Cleanup & Reflection (30 minutes)

1. **Tidy Up Together (15 min):** Make cleaning up part of the activity. Wash hands, brushes, and put materials away. This teaches responsibility and is a great practical life skill.
2. **My Growing Plant Journal (15 min):** Sit down with paper and crayons. Ask the student to draw a picture of what their plant will look like when it grows big and tall. As they draw, ask questions to check for understanding: "What will our plant need every day to grow?" (Answer: Sun and water). "What is our plant's home made of?" (Answer: Soil). This serves as a creative and fun assessment.

### Differentiation & Inclusivity:

- **For Extra Support:** Guide the student's hand more during scooping and painting. Use larger seeds (like beans) that are easier for small fingers to handle. Focus on the sensory experience of touching the soil and water.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Encourage the student to create a plant marker stick with the name of the plant on it (you can write the letters for them to trace). They could also count how many scoops of soil it takes to fill the pot.

### Assessment:

- **Formative (During the Lesson):** Observe the student's ability to follow directions during the planting process. Listen to their answers to questions during the story and reflection time.
- **Summative (Creative Output):** The final drawing in their "Plant Journal" serves as a summative assessment, showing their understanding of a plant's growth and needs in a creative, age-appropriate way. The successfully planted seed is the ultimate proof of application!

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