

# Super Sprout's Plant Adventure!

**Subject:** Science

**Grade Level:** Preschool (Age 4)

**Time Allotment:** 30-45 minutes (flexible to match your child's engagement)

## Materials Needed:

- A real, complete plant (a flower with roots from the garden or a bean sprout works great)
- Large sheet of paper or poster board
- Construction paper (brown, green, and a few bright colors like red, yellow, or pink)
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- **For the optional snack:** Celery sticks (stem), spinach (leaves), baby carrots (roots), broccoli florets (flower), and sunflower seeds (seeds)

## Learning Objectives

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

- Verbally identify at least three main parts of a plant: roots, stem, and leaves.
- Explain the simple job of one plant part (e.g., "The roots drink water for the plant.").
- Create a paper craft that correctly places the main parts of a plant.

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## Lesson Procedure

### 1. Introduction: The Wiggle Dance (5 minutes)

- **Activity:** Start by saying, "Let's pretend to be a tiny seed! Curl up in a little ball on the floor."
- Give instructions for a simple movement game:
  - "Now, send your roots down! Wiggle your toes and fingers into the ground."
  - "A little stem is starting to sprout! Slowly stand up, reaching for the sky."
  - "Your leaves are opening up! Stretch your arms out wide to catch the sun."
  - "A beautiful flower is blooming! Put your hands around your face like petals."
- **Purpose:** This gets your child moving and introduces the vocabulary in a fun, physical way. It sparks curiosity about how these parts work together.

### 2. Exploration: Plant Detectives (10 minutes)

- **Activity:** Present the real plant. Gently touch and examine it together. Use simple, clear language.
- Guide the exploration with questions:
  - "Look at these wiggly parts at the bottom. These are the **roots**. They are like a straw, drinking up all the water and food from the dirt. What do you think they feel like?"
  - "This long part here is the **stem**. It's like an elevator that carries the water and food up, up,

up! It also helps the plant stand up tall and strong. Can you stand up tall and strong like a stem?"

- "What are these green parts? These are the **leaves**! They soak up the sunshine to make food for the plant. Let's pretend to soak up the sun!"
- "And what is this beautiful, colorful part? This is the **flower**. It makes the seeds so more plants can grow!" (If your plant has one).

- **Purpose:** This provides a concrete, hands-on experience that connects the vocabulary to a real-world object.

### 3. Main Activity: Build-a-Plant Craft (15 minutes)

- **Activity:** Time to create!
  1. On the large paper, draw a line for the ground.
  2. **Roots:** Have your child tear or cut strips of brown paper and glue them under the ground line to make the roots. As they glue, ask, "What do the roots do?"
  3. **Stem:** Cut a long strip of green paper for the stem and glue it reaching up from the roots. As they glue, ask, "What does the stem do?"
  4. **Leaves:** Cut out leaf shapes from green paper and glue them onto the stem. As they glue, ask, "What do the leaves do?"
  5. **Flower:** Use the colorful paper to cut out petal shapes and a circle for the middle. Glue them to the top of the stem.
  6. (Optional) Glue a few real sunflower seeds in the middle of the flower.
- **Purpose:** This is a creative application of the knowledge gained. It allows the child to construct their understanding and creates a visual reminder of the lesson. This craft will also serve as the assessment tool.

### 4. Extension: Eat a Plant Snack! (5-10 minutes)

- **Activity:** Serve the prepared snack items. As you eat each one, talk about what part of the plant it is.
- "We're eating the crunchy **roots** of a carrot plant!"
- "This celery is a crunchy **stem**!"
- "These spinach leaves are the **leaves** of the plant."
- "Did you know broccoli is actually a **flower**?"
- "These sunflower seeds come from the middle of the flower and can grow a whole new plant!"
- **Purpose:** This multi-sensory activity makes a strong connection between the lesson and everyday life, reinforcing the concepts in a delicious and memorable way.

### 5. Wrap-up and Review (2 minutes)

- **Activity:** Hold up the finished "Build-a-Plant" craft. Point to each part and ask your child if they can name it. "Show me the roots! What's this part called?"
- Sing a simple song to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes":  
*"Roots, Stems, Leaves, and Flowers, Leaves and Flowers!"* (Repeat, pointing to the parts on the craft).
- **Purpose:** This provides a quick, low-pressure review to solidify learning.

## Differentiation and Inclusivity

- **For Extra Support:**
  - Focus on just three parts: roots, stem, and leaves.
  - Pre-cut the construction paper shapes for the craft.
  - Use hand-over-hand guidance for gluing and placing the parts.
- **For an Extra Challenge (Extension):**
  - Introduce more vocabulary, like "petals," "seeds," and "soil."
  - Discuss what each plant part needs to do its job (roots need water, leaves need sun).
  - End the lesson by planting a real bean seed in a small cup with soil to watch it grow over the next week, identifying the parts as they appear.

## Assessment

- **Formative (Observational):** Listen to the child's responses during the "Plant Detectives" exploration and the crafting activity. Are they able to point to the correct part when you name it?
- **Summative (Product-Based):** The completed "Build-a-Plant" craft serves as the primary assessment. Check if the parts are placed correctly (roots below ground, stem above, etc.). During the wrap-up, ask the child to use their craft to "teach" you the plant parts they learned.