



# Sustainable Space Planting

## #267

### AGE GROUP



### HOW DO I SET UP & PLAY?

- Cut the top third of the bottle/s for your children if they are young (the top part should have the bottle opening!). Older children should be able to do this with a little guidance.
- Show children how to place the top section of the bottle they just cut into the bottom section of the bottle upside down. It will look like a funnel!
- Fill the bottle section of the bottle with water until it is about 1/4 of the way full.
- Poke a 20 cm piece of string or twine through the neck of the bottle. It needs to touch the surface of the bottom of the bottle. Coil the rest of the twine around the inside of the 'funnel' part of the bottle.
- Show children how to pull and stretch out the cotton balls until they are fluffy and then they can fill the funnel to the top with their cotton balls.
- Children can now pick their seed and poke into the cotton balls close to the centre and covered.
- Spray with water to dampen the wool (not saturate!) Explain how the twine is going to bring the seeds water by raising it from the bottom of the bottle and this is a basic hydroponic gardening process. What do they think will happen next?
- Place the space gardens in a sunny spot and watch the seeds grow. Children can decide when they need to add water to the bottom bottle again as they observe the process in action.

### WHAT MATERIALS DO I NEED?

- 2 litre soft drink bottle for a group project or 1 x 600ml plastic water bottle for each child.
- Cotton balls
- Heavy cotton string or garden twine - cut into 20cm lengths.
- Large bean seeds (I like to use 'Purple King' here in Australia as they are fast growing).
- Water



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### EXTENDING LEARNING SPARKS

- Create the funnel as you did with the bottle in the first steps of this activity but this time add write some measurements in increments on the side of the bottle using a sharpie and place outside to use as a rain gauge.
- Ask children to investigate how else they could grow food without access to soil then try out some experiments or inventions.

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