Growing: adult input plan

to 4 weeks, so the plants have time to grow · ages 2 to 6 · adult-led and child-initiated ideas for six learning area

Big questions

- What does a plant need to grow?
- How do living things change as they grow?
- How can we look after the things we grow?

Key words

seed · roots · shoot · leaf · flower · watering can · caterpillar · chrysalis · butterfly · frogspawn · tadpole · frog

Area	Adult-led (small group, 10 to 15 minutes)	Child-initiated (set it up, then step back)
Talk and listening	Seed detectives: open a bean pod, an apple and a pumpkin or capsicum. Children predict, then count and describe the seeds they find.	A seed-sorting tray of big seeds, shells and buttons with magnifiers, for children to talk about which are seeds and which are not.
Early reading and writing	Read the sunflower story strip, then make a group diary of your own plants: draw the plant each week and write the children's words.	Plant labels, seed packets and pencils in the garden area so children can label what they planted.
Maths	Measure the bean plants with cubes or blocks on diary days and compare: which is tallest? Older children try the level 2 count and graph.	A garden centre role play with play money and price labels the children write themselves.
Exploring the world	Plant cress on damp cotton wool: one pot in the light, one in a dark cupboard. Check every day and talk about what changes.	A life-cycle table with the frog, butterfly and plant cards, a real seedling to watch and magnifiers.
Creative play and art	Observational drawing of a real flower or seedling with pencils, then a printed one with paint.	Collage with seeds, leaves and petals from the garden (picked up, not picked); clay to make a pot.
Moving and fine motor	Grow like a seed: curl up small, push up a shoot, stretch out leaves, open into a flower. Then wriggle like a caterpillar and hop like a frog.	Digging patch or soil tray with trowels, pots and watering cans; tweezers to plant big seeds in a row.

Families: plant something together this week, even a bean in a jar or herbs on a windowsill, and send in a photo or drawing as it grows.