



Tiny Gardener's Vocabulary

Growing Word By Word

Beginner: Talk with your child about different vocabulary words related to plants!

[Tip]: Use words such as plant, garden, water, soil, root, seed, sprout, stem, leaf, shovel, trowel, rake, gloves, wheelbarrow, watering can, and “green thumb.”

Intermediate: Together talk about, draw and label different plant categories.

[Tip]: Use words such as plant, flower, petal, annual, perennial, biennial, shrubs, herbs, tulip, dandelion, sunflower, evergreen tree, pine tree, oak tree, and crab-apple tree.

Experienced: Journal a seed’s growing progress.

[Tip]: What did you see first? How tall is your plant? Are there any leaves or blossoms?

Why is this important? Using words from nature can enhance vocabulary and support language development.

References: Prins, J., van der Wilt, F., van Santen, S., van der Veen, C., & Hovinga, D. (2023). The importance of play in natural environments for children’s language development: an explorative study in early childhood education. *International Journal of Early Years Education*, 31(2), 450–466. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669760.2022.2144147>