

Below-Ground Viewing Pots

EYLF Outcomes

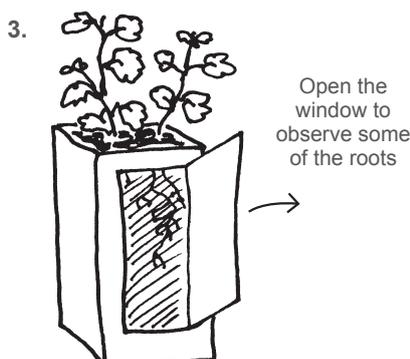
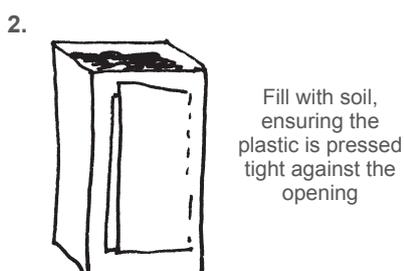
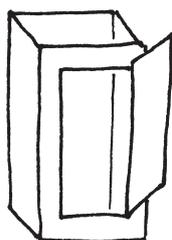
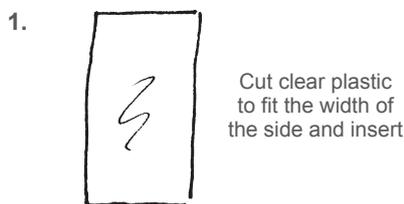
Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Roots grow underground, so these little growing pots have a ‘viewing window’ that can be opened if you want to look at the roots. It’s even more fun if you drop a couple of worms into the soil. You’ll need to collect the cardboard milk cartons in advance.

RESOURCES

- a few waxed cardboard milk and juice cartons (the 1 L kind are great)
- a skewer, or a hammer and nail, for making holes in the bottom of the cartons
- pieces of flexible transparent plastic, large enough to cover one side of the carton (recycle supermarket fruit containers)
- sticky tape (optional)
- scissors
- potting mix
- seeds of peas, beans, broad beans or radishes
- a couple of worms per pot (optional)
- drip trays (e.g. yoghurt container lids or an old baking tray)



WHAT TO DO

- Cut the top off the carton.
- Punch small, evenly spaced holes in the bottom of the carton.
- Cut a flap in one side of the carton. Don’t cut right to the edges: leave a margin to hold in the plastic window.
- Measure and cut the transparent plastic to fit one side of the carton.
- Insert the transparent plastic, covering the entire side with the flap cut in it. If necessary, tape it in place at the top so that it doesn’t slip down. You will need to hold this plastic in place while the child fills the pot.

- Fill the carton with potting mix. Pat down the potting mix to fill any air pockets.
- Plant the seeds according to packet instructions. Drop in a worm to see what happens.
- Place the pots on drip trays in a light area (out of direct sun). Water them just a little every third day.
- Keep the observation window closed, as plants need their roots to be kept in the dark.
- Periodically observe the root area through the window. What can you see?