

Planting Stem Cuttings

Recommended for: Elders and preschoolers (3-5 yrs.)

Objectives:

- Interact/Communicate (verbal/non-verbal)
- Enhance self-esteem/ Pride in accomplishment
- Have personal choice/ Make decisions
- Be generative/ Nurturing/ Helpful/ Caring
- Exercise Motor skills (fine or gross motor)
- Work as a team/Cooperate
- Reminisce/Reflect
- Take initiative
- Be creative
- Stay on task/Complete an activity

Materials needed (per group):

- Decoupage flower pots (made previously) or other small plant containers
- Water
- Potting soil
- The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle (optional)
- Stem cuttings - see **Special Considerations**

Methods:

Facilitator Preparation

1. Read The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle
2. Have all materials set out in pairs around the table before participants arrive.

Intergenerational Participants

1. Work in adult/child pairs.
2. Pour media/potting soil into the decoupage flower pot (about half way up).
3. Place the stem of the cutting down into the media/potting soil and cover with more media/potting soil. Do not cover the whole stem.
4. Water the stem cutting after it has been covered.

**Since these plants will need to be watered, this is a great opportunity for the children or adults to water the plants they potted together on a regular basis.

Special Considerations:

- Suggestions for stem cuttings: devil's ivy, heart-leaf, philodendron, wandering Jew, Swedish ivy, philodendron peperomia
- Make sure participants do not eat the dirt or stem cuttings.
- It is important to also find out if any of the participants are allergic to certain plants.
- If possible, have some participants that made the decoupage flower pots, participate in this opportunity.
- If you do not have The Tiny Seed read another story about growing plants, fruits, or flowers.

Key Conversation/Facilitation Questions:

- Why did you choose this stem cutting?
- What kind of garden do you have at home?
- Can you help _____ plant the stem cutting?
- What will help this stem grow?