

# Botany

## Grasses

### Activity - Object Tray

#### Materials:

A tray containing:

- (1) small container of rice
- (1) small container of wheat
- (1) small container of barley
- (1) small container of oats
- (1) small container of corn
  
- Labels (see preparation below)

#### Preparation:

1. The teacher needs to take a tray and make a label that says “**grasses**” using masking tape and a permanent pen. Stick this label at the bottom of the tray’s top surface.
2. The teacher needs to make a label for each of the small containers. Attach the labels to one of the sides of the container where it can be seen easily.
3. The **Grasses** tray is ready for presentation.

#### Presentation:

1. Invite the children to join you for a circle presentation.
2. The teacher should sit down with the children with the **Grasses** tray.
3. Explain to the children that you have something special that you want to share with them today.
4. The teacher should then place the **Grasses** tray directly in front of her.
5. Say, “This is the **Grasses** tray.” Point to the label on the tray and read, “**grasses**”.

6. Now say to the children, “**Grasses** are plants. Plants are **living things**. The teacher should say, “All **living things** have 4 things in common; **food, air, water** and they **reproduce**.”
7. Every container on this tray is used to study **grasses**.
8. The teacher should say “**Grasses**” as she points to the label on the tray.
9. The teacher picks up a container on the tray and points to the label and says, “This label says \_\_\_\_\_ (name of **grass**). \_\_\_\_\_ is a **grass** and **grass** is a plant.”
10. The teacher should place the container in front of her and dip her fingers inside the container and feel the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of **grass**).
11. After the teacher has slowly felt the \_\_\_\_\_, she starts to pass the container around the circle by giving it to the child on her right saying, “\_\_\_\_\_ is a **grass** and **grass** is a plant.”
12. Point to the label again and read, “\_\_\_\_\_”.
13. Pick up each of the containers and repeat the process.
14. Return the containers to the tray.
15. Return the **Grasses** tray to where it belongs on the shelf.

#### Variations and Extensions:

1. Change out the containers for other examples of **grasses**.
2. Study each type of **grass** separately.
3. Provide a product made from each **grass** to be experienced in a concrete way.

#### Points of Interest:

1. There are many different **grasses** to study.
2. We eat many **grasses**.
3. **Grasses** are not always green!

Control of Error:

1. The teacher has set up the tray correctly

Aims:

To be introduced to **Grasses** as a type of plant in an concrete way.

Age:

2 ½ and up

Language:

**Grasses, plants, names of grasses, etc.**