

## Beans, beans and more beans!

February is an ideal time to sow beans ready to put out later in the spring and develop children's understanding of the world.

### Learning aims

Understanding the World:

- Commenting about and questioning aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live or the natural world
- Discussing some of the things that they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects
- Talking about why things happen and how things work
- Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time
- Showing care and concern for living things and the environment.



### Resources

- A variety of transparent containers e.g. plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic gloves
- Different varieties of bean seeds e.g. broad, dwarf, runner
- Cotton wool, growing compost, kitchen paper
- Magnifying glasses
- Camera.

### Activity Outline

- Look at the different bean seeds and discuss with the children what they look like and why they might be different. What do they think the seeds will grow into? What type of plant?
- Let the children choose which container to use and which bean seeds to plant
- The children could decorate their container and put their name on using a sticker
- They can also choose what 'soil' to use e.g. cotton wool, kitchen paper or growing compost
- Help the children to plant the bean seeds, water and then leave in a warm sunny place
- Encourage the children to look carefully at the growing plants each day using the magnifying glasses, to see if they notice any changes occurring
- Take photos
- Once the plants have grown to around 30cm they can be put outside to continue growing – they will need to have canes to grow around
- In the summer you will be able to pick the different beans with the children, compare the differences and similarities and finally be able to eat them!

## Extension ideas

- Read Jack and the Beanstalk at story time.

## Working with babies

Use the bean seeds to make sensory bottles – put different seeds into different bottles. These will then make different sounds when shaking them. Ensure the tops of the bottles are secured tightly and always supervise babies and young children when playing with sensory/food items.