

Harvest of the Month



BASIL



Farm to ECE

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

NEBRASKA



Download and print items from
the Harvest of the Month toolkit at:

www.education.ne.gov/ns/farm-to-school/harvest-of-the-month

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HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

FLEXIBILITY – FOR YOU!

Use the provided activity calendars as a guide to incorporate this resource into your classroom. Follow the calendars as written, or use them as inspiration and select the activities that work best for you, the children, and your schedule.

TRY READING THE SAME BOOK EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK.

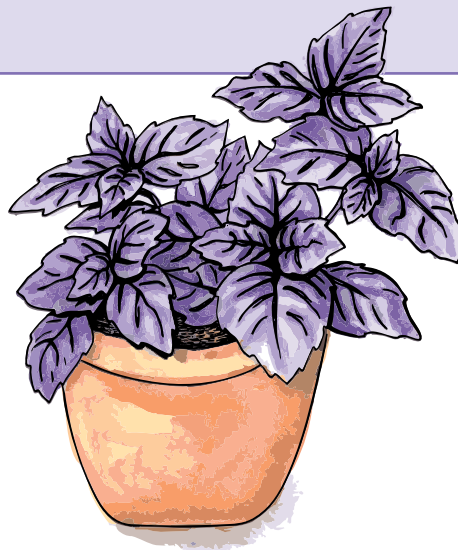
Reading the same book every day for a week allows children to learn more about the story and dive deeper into the book's meaning. Rereading a story leads to greater reading confidence. Ask discussion questions to encourage children to retell the story. This practice will help prepare children for more complex narratives down the road.

NO BOOK? TRY A READ-ALoud VIDEO!

Many books in the suggested reading lists have a read-aloud video published on the internet. If you don't have access to the physical books in your classroom or public library, check your library's digital catalog or search for a read-aloud video elsewhere online.

DON'T HESITATE TO REPEAT ACTIVITIES.

Repetition provides the practice that children need to learn and master new skills. As children repeat activities, they will improve speed, increase confidence, and strengthen the connections in their brain that help them learn!

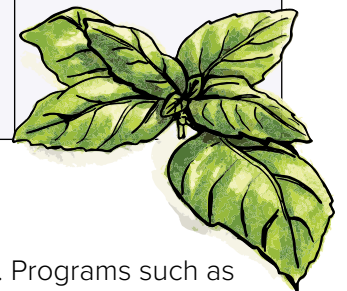


ACTIVITY CALENDAR: PLANNING FOR ONE MONTH

WEEKLY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Student Understanding: Farmers grow basil to flavor food. Book of the Week: <i>On the Farm, At the Market</i> by G. Brian Karas	Story Time with Book of the Week Video: <i>The Farmer Plants the Seeds - Kiboomers</i> Music Activity	Quick Bite One Video: <i>From Farm to You: Basil</i>	Story Time with Book of the Week Gross Motor Activity Recipe: <i>Strawberry Basil Lemonade</i>	Video: <i>Salt Dough Sculptures</i> Art Activity	Quick Bite Activity for Exploration
Student Understanding: Basil grows from a seed, and we eat its leaves Book of the Week: <i>A Leaf Can Be...</i> by Laura Purdie Salas	Science Activity	Story Time with Book of the Week Recipe: <i>Classic Basil Pesto</i>	Farm Story with Props	Story Time with Book of the Week Quick Bite Two	Gross Motor Activity
Student Understanding: There are many types of basil Book of the Week: <i>B is for Basil: An ABC Book of Herbs and Spices</i> by Dr. Tamara Pizzoli and Neneca	Story Time with Book of the Week Video: <i>Kidsongs - On Top of Spaghetti</i>	Data Analysis Activity	Story Time with Book of the Week Recipe Idea: Lemon Basil Chicken	Music Activity Science Activity	Video: <i>From Farm to You: Basil</i> Recipe Idea: Egg Scramble with Basil
Student Understanding: Basil can be used in many recipes! Book of the Week: <i>On Top of Spaghetti</i> by Paul Brett Johnson	Video: <i>Salt Dough Sculptures</i> Art Activity	Story Time with Book of the Week Recipe Idea: Pesto Pasta	Data Analysis Activity	Farm Story with Props Recipe Idea: Caprese Salad	Story Time with Book of the Week Video: <i>Kidsongs - On Top of Spaghetti</i>

ACTIVITY CALENDAR: PLANNING FOR TWO WEEKS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE	Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Video: The Farmer Plants the Seeds - Kiboomers Science Activity	Video: From Farm to You: Basil Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Quick Bite One	Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Gross Motor Activity Recipe: Strawberry Basil Lemonade	Farm Story with Props Video: Salt Dough Sculptures Art Activity	Quick Bite Activity for Exploration Gross Motor Activity Recipe Idea: Egg Scramble with Basil
WEEK TWO	Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Video: Salt Dough Sculptures Art Activity	Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Data Analysis Activity Recipe: Classic Basil Pesto	Music Activity Science Activity	Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Farm Story with Props Recipe Idea: Lemon Basil Chicken	Story Time with Suggested Books for Reading Video: Kidsongs - On Top of Spaghetti Recipe Idea: Pesto Pasta



RECIPE NOTE:

The recipes on the activity calendars are meant to spark ideas and give you a place to start. Programs such as Harvest of the Month offer additional options you can explore. Feel free to adapt or swap recipes to match your needs, resources, and schedule.

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR READING

- [*A Leaf Can Be...*](#) by Laura Purdie Salas
- [*B is for Basil: An ABC Book of Herbs and Spices*](#) by Dr. Tamara Pizzoli and Neneca
- [*On Top of Spaghetti*](#) by Paul Brett Johnson
- [*On the Farm, At the Market*](#) by G. Brian Karas

SONGS, POEMS, AND VIDEOS

- From Farm to You: Basil - LNKTV Health
» youtu.be/JLNbtfrs0GU
- The Farmer Plants the Seeds Lyric Video - The Kiboomers
Preschool Songs & Nursery Rhymes
» youtu.be/cRhGOdqWllo
- Kidsongs: On Top of Spaghetti from A Day at Camp - The Kidsongs Channel
» youtu.be/dvc1H7ek19k
- Salt Dough Sculptures with Claire Moore - Art in Motion
» youtu.be/ezSzEMxqdZw



INVOLVING FAMILIES

Involve families in the basil unit by sharing the Basil Fun Facts document. Add the information to a newsletter, incorporate the fun facts into a bulletin board, or send the sheet home so families can read through it and learn more together. Additional ways to involve families using the resources in this lesson could also include sharing the recipes and suggested books or inviting them to participate in one of the activities.

QUICK BITES

Harvest of the Month Quick Bites encourage children to participate in taste testing and provide activities for exploration. Children have the opportunity to learn more about the food on their plate and give feedback on food samples.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

These activities are aligned with the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for children ages 4-5. Use the lessons to engage children in hands-on activities to practice fine and gross motor skills, explore crafts and music, engage the senses, and more! All activities are “center” or “play station” based for small groups of children to complete at a time. Reference the Activity Calendars for scheduling inspiration.

BASIL FUN FACTS

Children are learning about basil! Extend learning outside of the classroom by creating a positive experience for children with a conversation about basil. Help them learn more about new foods and farming in Nebraska!



THE STRONG SMELL OF BASIL CAN HELP KEEP BUGS AWAY!

Plant basil near doors or patios because you'll enjoy the scent more than mosquitos do.



BASIL COMES IN MANY FLAVORS.

Some basil tastes sweet, some tastes spicy, and some even has a lemony smell!



PICKING LEAVES HELPS BASIL GROW.

When basil is harvested regularly, the plant stays fuller and tastes better longer.



BASIL'S STRONG SCENT COMES FROM NATURAL OILS THAT HELP THE PLANT PROTECT ITSELF.

It also contains vitamins A and K and antioxidants, which support health as part of a varied diet.

QUICK BITES

Did you know? Children may need to try a new food 10-15 times before they determine whether or not they enjoy it. Taste tests are a great opportunity for children to try new, healthy foods in a low risk setting. Refer to the Taste Test Guide for food allergy information, precautions, and safety ideas before completing these activities with children.

QUICK BITE ONE

Purchase different kinds of basil (fresh, dried, paste) for smelling and observing.

Example: With clean hands, invite students to pinch and roll fresh leaves and crumble dried leaves. Observe how pieces of leaves are mixed with oil to make a paste.

QUICK BITE TWO

Pair basil with a sweet flavor and a savory flavor.

Example: Pair basil in the following ways:

Sweet

- stir into strawberry yogurt
- season a salad of strawberries and mild cheese
- sprinkle chopped basil over watermelon cubes
- add basil to fruit-infused water

Savory

- season cream cheese spread on a salted cracker or cucumber slice
- mix into eggs before scrambling
- stir into hummus or white bean dip
- toss with roasted vegetables

ACTIVITY FOR EXPLORATION

Making simple Basil Salt is a great way to preserve fresh summer basil. You'll need:

- 1 cup packed fresh basil leaves (remove the stems first)
- 1/2 cup table salt or sea salt
- a small food processor or blender
- storage container, such as small mason jar or spice jar

Put the fresh basil and salt into a food processor and grind until fine. Then spread the mixture out over a parchment paper lined baking sheet and bake at 250°F for about 25 minutes.

Add the dried basil salt mixture back into the food processor (make sure the blender is dry first), then pulse once again to break up any clumps. Store the mixture in storage container for up to 3 months or more.

Use basil salt throughout the month to flavor recipes like roasted vegetables, hard boiled eggs and egg dishes, meats such as chicken or fish, pizza and pasta, and fresh fruits or salads, such as cut melons or tomatoes and cheese.



HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

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PROCESS ART ACTIVITY - BASIL-SCENTED SALT DOUGH SCULPTURES

Children manipulate clay into shapes and create surface textures inspired by the animals in the companion read-aloud picture book about gardening. Dough is scented with basil, an additional sensory aspect to the process art activity.

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GROSS MOTOR ACTIVITY - WHEELBARROW WALKING

In this activity, children become busy basil harvesters transporting basil from the farm to places where we buy and eat it: markets, schools, and restaurants. One child acts as the wheelbarrow (walking on hands) while a partner or adult gently holds their legs.

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SCIENCE ACTIVITY - HAMMERED PLANT PRINTS

In this activity, children will transfer color, scent, and texture from plants onto paper while using tools like wooden mallets. Children investigate how a variety of plants and plant parts create different results and begin to connect their observation of plant characteristics to the ways people use plants as food, medicine, dyes, fragrances, and decoration.

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MUSIC ACTIVITY - THE FARMER PLANTS THE SEEDS SONG

Children listen, move, and sing along as they learn lyrics describing the stages of a basil seed's growth.

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DATA ANALYSIS ACTIVITY - BASIL RECIPE GRAPH

Children will sort basil recipes by basil type onto a graph. As they build and compare their graph, children will observe changes using language such as more, less, and the same.

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FARM STORY WITH PROPS

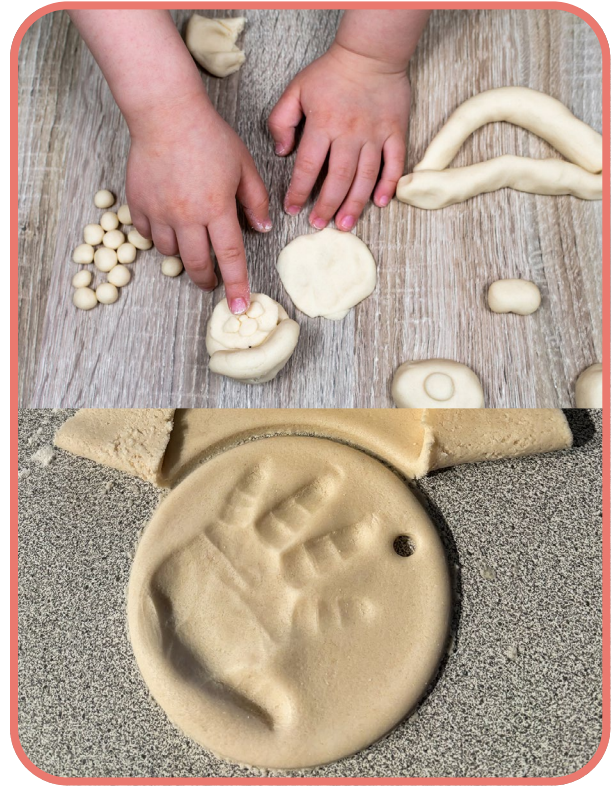
Read the story and have children follow along with the photos. Use the circle time activity props to enhance the experience!

PROCESS ART ACTIVITY

BASIL-SCENTED SALT DOUGH SCULPTURES

Standard (CA.02): Develops foundational skills that support creative expression through the process, production, and appreciation of visual art forms. Standard (HP.01): Uses finger and hand control to operate and use small objects demonstrating fine motor coordination.

Children learn to explore and express their ideas through the open-ended process of shaping and creating with salt dough, focusing on experimenting rather than making a specific final product. As they roll, pinch, press, and form the dough, they strengthen finger and hand control while using small movements to manipulate materials with intention. Through this hands-on experience, children also begin to notice and appreciate their own creations and the work of others.



THE GOAL

Children manipulate clay into shapes and create surface textures inspired by the animals in the companion read-aloud picture book about gardening. Dough is scented with basil, an additional sensory aspect to the process art activity.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Salt Dough Recipe Ingredients

- 1 cup table salt
- 1/8-1/4 cup dried basil leaves (about one half to one full container from the spice aisle)
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1.5 cups water
- Food coloring (optional)

Resources for Sculpting

- Batch of salt dough
- Cylinders for rolling out dough (kids' thick markers work well or small art rollers)
- Tools for cutting like kids' scissors, dull knives, or small cookie cutters
- Texture objects: fabric scraps like burlap or lace, marker caps, shells, orange peels, bottle caps
- Plastic drinking straw for creating a hole for hanging ornaments

Resources for Facilitating

- Parchment paper for laying out to dry
- Masking tape to secure parchment paper if using as a work surface

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity can be implemented as a whole-class art activity or in smaller stations of 4-6 children. Salt dough is inexpensive and quick to make, can air dry, and is non-toxic (although not yummy and not advisable to eat). Using dried basil or basil salt from the Quick Bites Activity for Exploration in this recipe will add a fun, aromatic sensory addition for your classroom.

Setup: Prepare a batch of salt dough. With painter's tape, secure a length of parchment paper as a work surface.

1. Portion a small handful of salt dough to each student participating.
2. Model shaping (rolling balls, rolling logs, and flattening with cylinders), texturing, and sculpting.
 - » Refer to the video [Salt Dough Sculptures with Claire Moore](#) also listed in Engagement Tools.
 - » [1:39](#) - [2:44](#) using textures on the surface of flat dough
 - » [2:45](#) - [3:48](#) shaping round balls and sausages into other shapes on texturing the surface of those shapes
3. **Ornaments Variation:** Roll out balls of salt dough into flat circles (around 1/4" thick so it is not too fragile). Using objects from around the room, press surface textures onto the clay. Use a plastic drinking straw to create a hole for hanging, and lay flat to dry overnight.
 - » Basil leaves could be a textural object. How does it look if we press the fuzzy side of the leaf to the dough? How about pressing the vein side?
4. **Sculpture Variation:** Invite children to sculpt using the salt dough. You may refer to the suggested picture books in the Engagement Tools section for visual inspiration. Represented in the books are insects, plants, and foods that children could try replicating in dough.
 - » To practice planning and language skills, ask children what they hope to sculpt before they begin. Check in with them later to see if they stayed with their idea or changed and why.

ENGAGE THE CHILDREN

Engage children to build language, socialization, fine motor, and touch sensory skills.

1. Ask children about what they are doing.
2. Ask children to provide explanations.
3. Ask children the following questions to help them make the connection from their lives to the farm.
 - » Can you tell me something about basil's smell? (We like to cook with it because of its good smell! Its smell also keeps bugs away!)
 - » What do basil plants need in order to grow? (Sunshine and water)

GROSS MOTOR ACTIVITY

WHEELBARROW WALKING

Standard (HP.02): Child demonstrates effective and efficient use of large muscles for movement, position, and to explore the environment.

Children practice strength and coordination as they move either in a wheelbarrow position or as the wheelbarrow guide. Benefits include strengthening and stabilizing the hands, wrists and core, as well as supporting regulation, body awareness, motor planning, and more while playfully “working” to get basil to its destination.

THE GOAL

In this activity, children become busy basil harvesters transporting basil from the farm to places where we buy and eat it: markets, schools, and restaurants. One child acts as the wheelbarrow (walking on hands) while a partner or adult gently holds their legs.

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity can be implemented in small or medium-sized centers or larger groups.

Wheelbarrow walking is named after our body’s position during the activity – we look like wheelbarrows and farm workers! Wheelbarrows are made up of a large bin with handles and stands on the back which also has a pair of wheels on the front. When a gardener or farmer lifts the handles to raise the bin onto its wheels, the farmer can move heavy or bulky loads from one place to another.

Two people are needed for wheelbarrow walking. Instructions below are for two children, or an adult can be a wheelbarrow guide:

1. Child number one places their arms on the floor in front of them to represent the wheels, while their feet will represent the handles. Child number two lifts child number one’s legs off the ground while child number one supports their weight on their arms.
 - » Modification: The wheelbarrow guide can hold the wheelbarrow child’s legs closer to the hips to reduce the weight load on the child’s arms. Holding wheelbarrow children by the feet is the most challenging variation for them.
2. Place small bean bags or other classroom objects around the room to represent freshly harvested basil to transport. Child number one wheelbarrow-walks toward one of the bean bags with help of child number two. Placing the bean bag on the wheelbarrow-walker’s back, they return to a basket in the middle of the room where they “deliver” the basil. The basket can represent a grocery store, farmers market, school, restaurant, or other place where children buy or eat basil in foods.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Open space indoors or outdoors
- Bean bags or other easily-transportable classroom objects
- Basket
- Optional: inflated therapy ball, rolling stool, or rolling chair

- » Modification: The wheelbarrow-walker can balance on a therapy ball to support the legs rather than a partner. Bring bean bags and basket into closer reach, or incorporate another task to complete in that position, such as the basil coloring page.
- » Partner modification: If the wheelbarrow guide is an adult, sitting on a rolling chair or stool can ease the demand on the lower back in this activity.

This activity is modeled after one by Victoria Woods OTR/L at: theotttoolbox.com/wheelbarrow-walking

ENGAGE THE CHILDREN

Engage children to help develop language, socialization, touch sensory skills, and agricultural awareness.

1. Ask children about what they are doing.
2. Ask children to provide explanations.
3. Ask children the following questions to help them make the connection from their lives to the farm.
 - » What do farmers and cooks need to do to keep basil clean and safe before we eat it? (handle basil with clean tools and clean hands, keep germs and insects away, store so basil stays fresh)
 - » After basil is picked from the garden or farm, how do you think it travels to stores, restaurants, or kitchens without getting wilted or squished? (packed gently by people so as not to bruise leaves, kept cool, moved in boxes and trucks, protected from dirt, pests, and heat during transport)
 - » Why is it important to wash our hands and wash basil before we use it in food like pasta, pizza, or salad? (We wash to remove dirt and germs, which keeps food safe and helps us stay healthy.)



SCIENCE ACTIVITY

HAMMERED PLANT PRINTS

Standard (S.02): Develops foundational skills in learning and understanding about the world through exploration and investigation. Standard (CA.02): Develops foundational skills that support creative expression through the process, production, and appreciation of visual art forms.

Open-ended plant investigation offers children direct, sensory-rich exploration. Children make observations, ask questions, test ideas, and communicate discoveries using materials from their natural learning and/or gardening spaces as they gather, compare, hammer, observe, and discuss plants. Process-based experiences like this also strengthen fine motor skills, curiosity, confidence with tools, and an understanding that nature can be studied in many different ways.

THE GOAL

In this activity, children will transfer color, scent, and texture from plants onto paper while using tools like rubber mallets. Children investigate how a variety of plants and plant parts create different results and begin to connect their observation of plant characteristics to the ways people use plants as food, medicine, dyes, fragrances, and decoration.

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity can be completed as a medium-sized center with three to six children.

1. Gather the plant materials from the playground or garden. This is a good time to discuss safety concerns when using natural supplies.
 - » Opt for fresh, colorful plants with high pigmentation like the ones listed in materials.
2. Cover the table or work area with a protective cloth or plastic sheet. Dress children in smocks or older clothing to help protect against plant stains.
3. Place flowers and leaves on watercolor paper or other absorbent paper.
 - » Before beginning a larger artwork, invite children to test a few plants on scrap paper to see which plants create strong colors or interesting prints.
 - » Cover the plants with wax paper or parchment paper and tape the edges down so the paper stays in place while hammering.
4. Using gentle taps, help children hammer the mallet over the covered plants to release the natural pigments onto the paper.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Plant material, such as basil leaves, dandelions, rose petals, ferns, marigolds, Japanese Maple leaves, pansies, amaranth, viola, geranium, etc.
- Wooden or rubber mallet, hammer, or similar tool
- Wax paper or parchment paper
- Paper - card stock or watercolor paper work best
- Dish towel or other layer to protect hammering surface

- » Direct children on appropriate use of a mallet. Supervise actively, and at the same time allow them the opportunity to rise to the occasion of being trusted with these tools!

Throughout the steps, model scientific thinking and prediction with questions like these:

- What do you notice about this plant's color, texture, or smell?
- Which flower or leaf do you think will make the brightest print? Why?
- Do you think this plant will leave a dark color, a light color, or maybe no color at all?
- What might happen if we hammer softly? What might happen if we hammer harder?
- Were your predictions correct, or did something surprising happen?
- Which plants worked best for printing? What evidence did you notice?
- What would you like to try differently next time to test another idea?
- How can we describe or show our results to someone else?

Safety considerations about poisonous or irritating plants can be found at Barley and Birch's hammered flower prints activity page: <https://barleyandbirch.com/make-hammered-nature-art/>

ENGAGE THE CHILDREN

Engage children to help develop language, socialization, scientific inquiry, and touch sensory skills.

1. Ask children about what they are doing.
2. Ask children to provide explanations.
3. Ask children the following questions to help them make the connection from their lives to the farm.
 - » We noticed that plants can have many different colors and smells. How do you think people use plants because of those special qualities? (Plant colors, smells, and flavors can be used in food, spices, soaps, teas, and more.)
 - » Some plants made bright prints and some did not. Why might farmers or gardeners choose to grow different kinds of plants? (Different types of plants are grown for different purposes, such as food, beauty, feeding pollinators and other animals, and making useful products.)
 - » Where do people get the plants and natural materials they need for food, art, medicine, spices, or perfume? Who grows them? (Farmers, gardeners, and growers care for plants on farms, and in gardens, orchards, forests, and greenhouses.)



MUSIC ACTIVITY

THE FARMER PLANTS THE SEEDS

THE SEEDS

Standard (CA.01): Develops foundational skills to support creative expression through voice, instruments, and objects.

Music enhances all areas of a child's development, equipping them with the tools to be ready for school. This includes intellectual, social, emotional, motor, language, and literacy all together. Music helps a child's mind and body work together. Music also helps children learn the sounds and meanings of words.

THE GOAL

Children listen, move, and sing along as they learn lyrics describing the stages of a basil seed's growth.

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity can be implemented as part of morning circle time or as a play station with 4-5 children.

1. Hang the song lyrics poster "The Farmer Plants the Seeds" where children can see it. Referring to the words while singing builds print awareness, a pre-reading skill.
2. Introduce the song, The Farmer Plants the Seeds to tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." See the lyrics poster for words. Be ready to repeat the song more than once during the activity!
 - » A video can be used, like this one from the [Kiboomers](#) (also listed in Engagement Tools). Note that our lyrics differ. After "the seeds begin to grow," we specify basil plants (rather than vegetables), and the children snip the leaves (rather than the farmer digs them up).
 - » Or use an [accompaniment version](#). Consider slowing down the playback speed to 75% for ease!
 - » Incorporate print awareness and pre-reading practice: Can a child be the one to point at the lyrics poster during the song? Can anyone find just one of the words in the song? Would anyone like to point to a word and guess how it sounds?
3. Continue the song with additional verses and incorporate actions when ready. Refer to the Teacher's Lyrics and Actions Reference for full lyrics and actions.
4. The last verse lyrics are "Now it's time to eat." Invite the children to brainstorm actions!
 - » Discuss actions that would go along eating basil foods: tying a napkin around neck for pasta, spreading pesto on a bread for a sandwich, licking a basil ice cream cone, sipping strawberry-basil lemonade, etc.

Freeze Dance Variation:

When children are familiar with the song and actions, add a freeze dance element by pausing the music at various intervals. Anyone moving while the music is paused is 'out' until the next round of the song.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- "The Farmer Plants the Seeds" song lyrics poster
- Classroom musical instruments (if applicable)

ENGAGE THE CHILDREN

Engage children to help develop language, motor, and sensory skills.

1. Ask children about what they are doing.
2. Ask children to provide explanations.
3. Ask children the following questions to help them make the connection from their lives to the farm.
 - » What are some things that happen to the seed to help it grow? (planted in the soil, receives sunshine and rain)
 - » What can we do with basil? (We cook with it and eat it, or mix it with foods and drinks to enjoy!)

TEACHER'S LYRICS AND ACTION REFERENCE

The Farmer Plants the Seeds to tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*

The farmer plants the seeds [stoop and pretend to plant seeds],
the farmer plants the seeds,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, the farmer plants the seeds.

The sun comes out to shine [make a large circle with arms],
the sun comes out to shine,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, the sun comes out to shine.

The rain begins to fall [hands flutter up and down],
the rain begins to fall,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, the rain begins to fall.

The seeds begin to grow [stand up slowly],
the seeds begin to grow,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, the seeds begin to grow.

The basil plants are here [clap to the rhythm],
the basil plants are here,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, the basil plants are here.

The child clips the leaves [pretend to harvest using fingers like scissors],
the child clips the leaves,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, the child clips the leaves.

Now, it's time to eat [ask children for action ideas!],
now it's time to eat,
Hi, ho, the dairy-o, now it's time to eat.

THE FARMER PLANTS THE SEEDS

(to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")



THE FARMER PLANTS THE SEEDS.

THE SUN COMES OUT TO SHINE.



THE SEEDS BEGIN TO GROW.

THE BASIL PLANTS ARE HERE.



THE CHILD CLIPS THE LEAVES.

NOW IT'S TIME TO EAT!



HI, HO, THE DAIRY-O

DATA ANALYSIS ACTIVITY

BASIL RECIPE GRAPH

Standard (M.04): Develops foundational skills in learning to understand concepts of classification, data collection, organization, and description.

Children make sense of their world by sorting, grouping, and organizing information in meaningful ways. Through collecting and describing data, children practice early reasoning skills, strengthen language, and begin to recognize patterns, relationships, and differences that form mathematical thinking.

THE GOAL

Children will sort basil recipes by basil type onto a graph. As they build and compare their graph, children will observe changes using language such as more, less, and the same.

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity is best implemented in a small to medium center of 1-4 children.

Before children begin, create a large graph with six columns. Place the six basil photo cards across the bottom, one per column, as category labels.

1. Read aloud the names on the basil photo cards. Ask the children what they notice (color, shape of leaf, size). Each basil tastes a little different and can be used in recipes.
2. Hand out 1-2 recipe cards per child. Invite them to come up one at a time and place their recipe card above the basil it matches, starting the columns. Look for clues in color or in names.
 - » Pause after each placement to notice what's happening: "Now we have one here... does any column have more than that yet?"
3. Continue in small rounds, handing out a few cards at a time. Vary how they're distributed - sometimes giving multiple cards of the same recipe type in a round, other times mixing them - so the graph grows unevenly and stays interesting.
 - » After each round briefly stop to observe and compare: "What's changing? Which is growing faster? Are any the same right now?"
4. As the graph fills in, invite children to predict before placing the next card: "If I add this one, what might happen?" Once all 6 recipe types have been placed (with possible repeats if you print extras), guide a final observation comparing the columns.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Card stock and printer
- Basil variety photo cards (one per basil type: Baby Bush, Lemon, Mammoth, Genovese, Purple, and Thai)
- Matching recipe cards (2-3 sets)
- Large graph supplies (6 columns):
 - » markers and large paper OR
 - » painter's tape and floor or table

How many cards to use:

- Simplest version: 6 recipe cards (1 per type) introduces matching
- Recommended: 12-18 cards total for more meaningful data to watch information grow, change, and become something we can think about

ENGAGE THE CHILDREN

Engage children to help develop language, pattern recognition, early literacy, and numeracy skills.

1. Ask children about what they are doing.
2. Ask children to provide explanations.
3. Ask children the following questions to help them make the connection from their lives to the farm.
 - » How many basil types did you touch?
 - » What color are the foods? The basil types? (green, purple, yellowish)
 - » Who cuts basil in a field? (farmers)





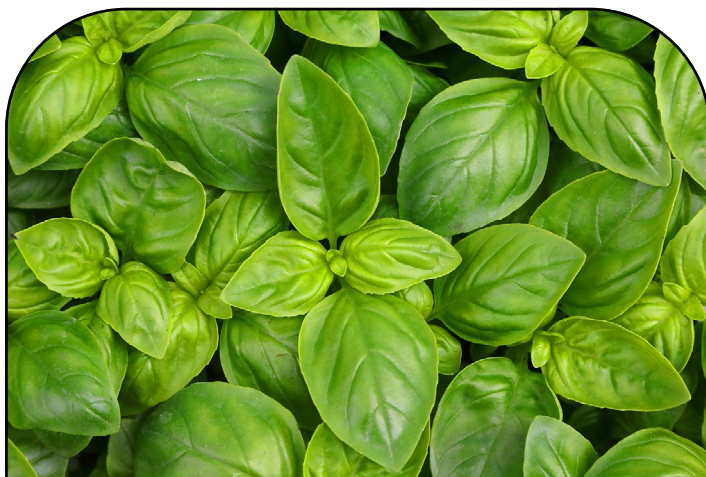
Baby Bush Basil



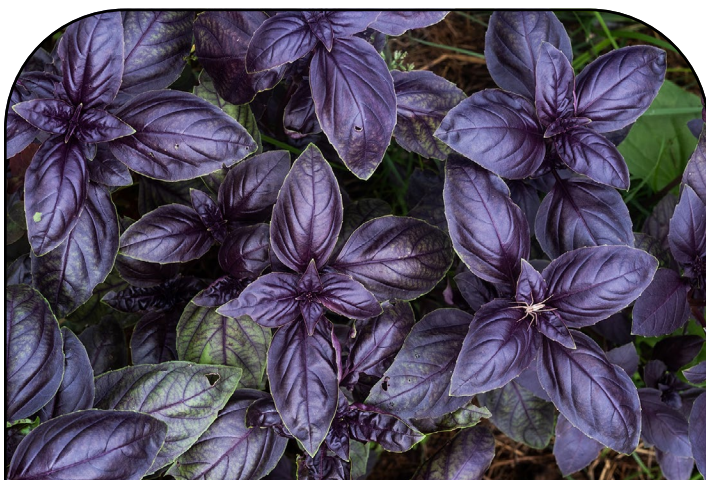
Lemon Basil



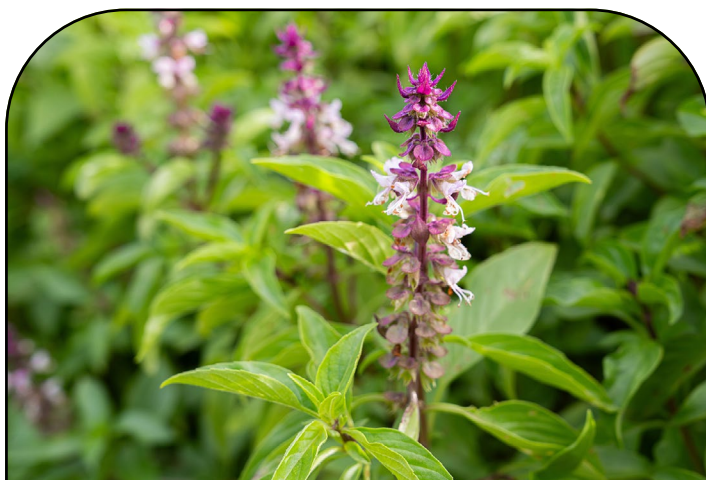
Mammoth Basil



Genovese Basil



Purple Basil



Thai Basil



Thai Basil Curry



Lemon Basil Chicken



**Purple Basil
Tomato Salad**



Stuffed Mammoth Basil



**Baby Bush Basil
Caprese Salad**



**Genovese Basil
Pesto Pasta**

TEACHER SCRIPT FOR FARM STORY WITH PROPS

INSTRUCTIONS

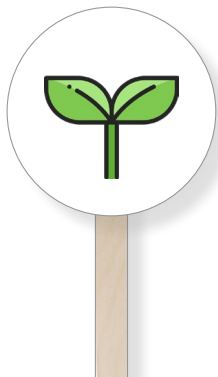
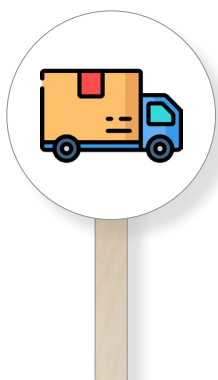
Read the story and have children follow along with the photos on the front of this page. Use the circle time activity props to enhance the experience.

- Basil begins as a very small seed. On large farms, seeds are planted in long rows or in greenhouse trays. Basil likes warm weather and sunshine. Some farmers start basil indoors to protect it until the outdoors are warm enough. Basil likes it warm - just like we do in the summer!
- Seeds sprout into small green plants. Leaves grow soft and fragrant. Farmers water the plants regularly. Basil grows quickly when it has sun and warmth. Rub your fingers together - basil leaves feel soft and smell fragrant!
- Basil is cut when leaves are full and healthy. Farmers may cut the top of the plant so it doesn't grow flowers - this helps the plant grow more leaves with good taste! Harvesting can happen more than once, in fact all summer long.
- Basil is gently rinsed to wash off any dirt or bugs. Leaves are bundled or placed in plastic containers. Basil must be handled carefully so it doesn't bruise. It is kept cool, but not too cold.
- Trucks take basil to grocery stores, schools, and restaurants. People use basil in cooking - like pasta, sauces, and salads. Then it makes its way to our plates!



CIRCLE TIME PROPS

Ahead of the activity, gather classroom items as props and/or cut and glue the included images to popsicle sticks. Distribute the props before you read the story and have children act out the story with the props. Practice sequencing: when children hear their item called, they would stand in order at the front of the room with the teacher.



FARM STORY

BASIL

Learn more about how basil start as a tiny seed and grow to get to your hands!

1



Farmers plant tiny basil seeds.

2



The seeds grow into green basil plants.

3



Farmers cut the basil leaves from the stem to harvest them.

4



The basil is washed and packed.

5



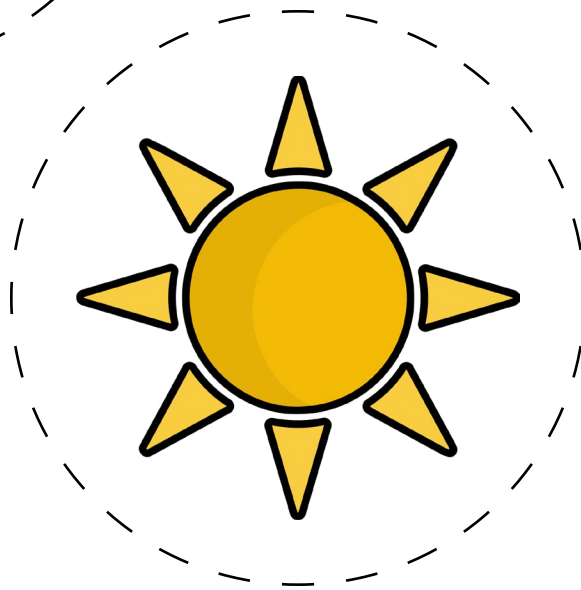
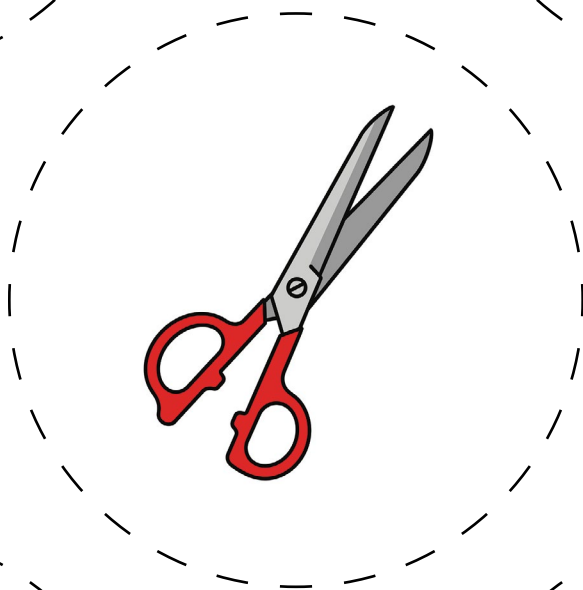
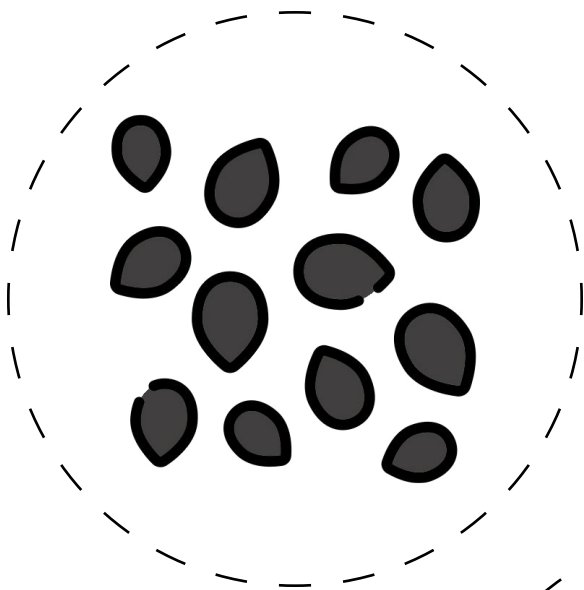
The basil leaves travel to us and we cook with them.

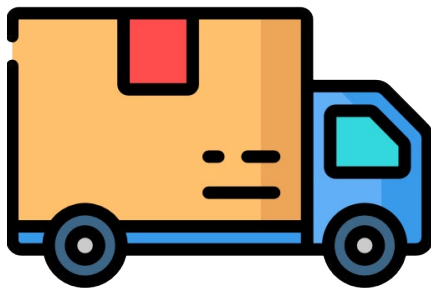
6



We eat foods flavored with basil leaves!







Harvest of the Month

BASIL



DID YOU KNOW -

Basil goes far beyond pesto! Genovese flavors Mediterranean dishes, purple basil adds bold clove-like flavor and ornamental beauty, Thai basil shines in curries, lemon basil brightens teas, and holy basil is valued in Ayurvedic tradition for its healing qualities.



Farm to School
NEBRASKA



NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION