

Episode 201: "Jack and the Cornstalk" - Activity 31

Provide your child with a handful of seeds consisting of five to ten each of the following: corn (maíz), lima bean, radish, pea, acorn, pumpkin, and sunflower. Ask your child to sort the seeds by type. After the seeds are sorted by type, have your child record and draw an observation of the sorted seeds in his/her science journal. (Be sure to encourage your child to make accurate both written and pictorial form). To expand your child's ability to observe the seeds, consider providing a child-safe magnifying glass/hand lens. Discuss your child's observations about the seeds. Have your child count each seed sort in Spanish. Ask your child to think of another way to sort the seeds and to sort them using his/her idea. Discuss. Work with your child to discover additional ways to sort the seeds (e.g., sort seeds by color; by those that are verde/green and those that are not verde/green; by maíz/corn and not maíz/corn; by smooth and bumpy; by pequeño/small, mediano/medium, and grande/large; by dark and light). Ask your child to record observations and depictions of two or three of the additional sorts. Extend the activity by providing space in a garden or in planting containers so your child can plant one or two of each of the seeds. Label the planted seeds with garden-type labels. Have your child predict what the seeds will need in order to sprout and grow. Check out some books from the public library to read about the needs of seeds and growing plants. Have your child record daily observations of the growing seeds. Discuss your child's observations. Confirm and compare your child's observations to pictures and text in the informational books from the library. Discuss points of interest.

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