



# BIG GREEN LESSONS

Learning Garden Tour: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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## Lesson Outcomes

- Students will become familiar with Learning Garden vocabulary.
- Students will be able to identify what plants need to survive.
- Students will be able to demonstrate how to properly water the Learning Garden.

## Standard Alignment

Common Core – English Language Arts

- 3.SL.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher- led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building
- 4.SL.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher- led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- 5.SL.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher- led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

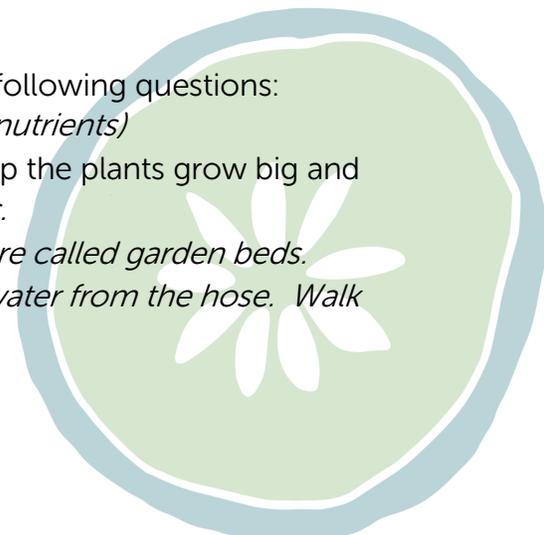
## Materials and Preparation

- Cups for Little Raincloud watering
- Bucket or tub filled with water
- Plants labeled
- Research four plants you want to highlight during the tour
- Familiarize yourself with the basics of what plants need to grow L<sup>A</sup>W<sup>N</sup> (light, air, water, nutrients)
- Familiarize yourself with the irrigation system
- Familiarize yourself with the Little Raincloud watering method (see below)

## Introduction (5 minutes)

Gather in the Learning Garden and form a circle. Discuss the following questions:

- What do plants need to grow? *L<sup>A</sup>W<sup>N</sup> (light, air, water, nutrients)*
- Pick up a small handful of soil. What is in the soil to help the plants grow big and strong? *Nutrients, worms, and other helpful organisms.*
- What are these white boxes that the soil is in? *These are called garden beds.*
- Where do our plants get the water? *Rain, but mostly, water from the hose. Walk or point to the hose spigot.*



## Garden Activity (20 minutes)

Let students know that you will now be taking them on a Learning Garden tour to identify what is growing. The tour will end with watering demonstration and activity.

Slowly walk around the garden and highlight four plants; say them loud and clear as you point and pause. Have students repeat back as they follow you around the garden.

Ask students if they have ever eaten any of these fruits or veggies before. If students have eaten these fruits and vegetables before, ask them to describe what dish(es) they were found in.

Explain the irrigation system: perforated tubing, drip, etc.

Demonstrate and perform with all students the Little Raincloud method of watering. Once you have shown the method have students perform the task.

## Conclusion (5 minutes)

Review what plants need to thrive.

Go over the four plants that you identified.

Emphasize the importance of watering our garden.

## Little Raincloud Activity

1. Fill the large containers with water and position them around the garden.
2. Have students gather around a garden bed, then demonstrate the technique to them (see below).
3. Ask students to line up behind the buckets and hand out cups to the first few students in line.
4. Have students fill the cup with water and move to a spot in the garden that needs water.
5. Instruct them to water the seeds and seedlings gently.
6. Remind the students to avoid disrupting seeds by splashing forcefully or creating a puddle.

## Little Raincloud Technique

1. Hold a cup of water in one hand.
2. Place the other hand with the palm facing up towards the sky and fingers loosely cupped about 6-8 inches above the surface of the garden.
3. Pour the cup of water slowly into the palm of the other hand, letting the water gently drizzle through the fingers onto the soil in a manner that mimics gentle raindrops.
4. Move hands together back and forth over the garden to direct water to the dry soil.

