



# BIG GREEN LESSON

## Little Raincloud Activity

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### Lesson Outcomes

- Students will safely and efficiently water the Learning Garden.
- The entire class will participate in watering the Learning Garden.
- Students will learn that the roots take up water to the rest of the plant.

### Materials and Preparation

- Several large buckets or containers filled with water, placed around your Learning Garden
- 15 – 30 reusable containers (e.g. plastic cups or clean milk cartons)
- Review lesson and familiarize yourself with your Learning Garden

### Teacher Background

The Little Raincloud activity features a watering technique that is an effective and safe way to water your Learning Garden with all of your students at one time. Students will learn the proper way to water seeds and seedlings, and teachers will have a manageable, hands on opportunity to discuss plant care and the water cycle with the entire class.

### Introduction

Welcome your students to the Learning Garden and line students up along one side. Stand on the opposite side of the Learning Garden so you can address the entire group.

Let your students know that they will soon be watering the seeds and seedlings in your Learning Garden. To prepare, we will be learning a watering technique that we can use in the Learning Garden any time we want to water as a class.

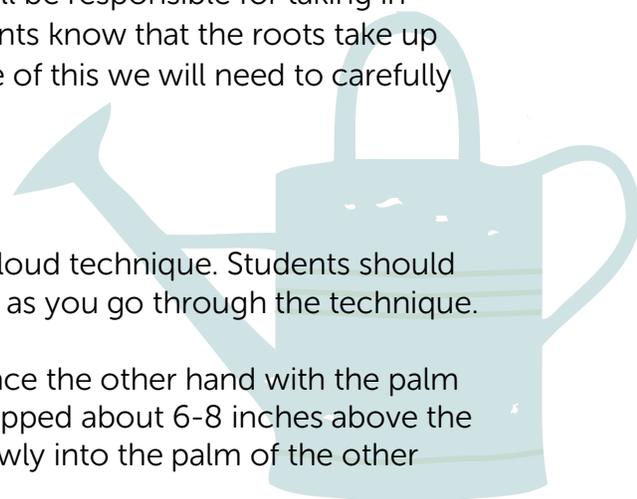
Ask students to explain why they think that seeds and seedlings need water to grow. Solicit responses and if appropriate, encourage students to think about why they need water.

Next, ask students to describe what part of the plant will be responsible for taking in water. It is the leaves? The stems? The roots? Let students know that the roots take up water and deliver it to the rest of the plant and because of this we will need to carefully water the soil around each of our seeds and seedlings.

### Activity

Demonstrate how to safely water using the Little Raincloud technique. Students should follow along, pretending to water the Learning Garden as you go through the technique.

**Technique:** Hold a cup of water in one hand. 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. 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 rain drops. Move hands together back and forth over the garden to direct water to the dry soil and avoid creating puddles of water.

Ask students to line up behind the buckets or containers and hand out cups to the first few students in line.

Have students fill the cup with water and move to a spot in the Leaning Garden that needs water.

## Conclusion

Have students share out key parts of today's discussion and review the Activity Outcomes.

Students should clean-up the Learning Garden as needed.

## Classroom Extension

### Standards Alignment

#### Common Core – English Language Arts

- W.K.2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
- W.1.2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
- W.2.2. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

### Extension:

Have students write a "how-to" book explaining the Little Raincloud watering technique:

1. As a whole group, small groups or in pairs, have students verbally review the garden activity: "How do we use the Little Raincloud technique to water our Learning Garden?"
2. Have students draw a picture after each step during their verbal review.
  - a. Emphasize the importance of proper sequencing. Consider having students draw one picture/step per piece of paper in case groups/students need to rearrange the order of their steps.
3. Once all steps have been verbally articulated, pictures drawn, and the pictures are in the proper order, have students write numbers on each picture.
4. Finish by writing words or sentences under each picture to complete the "how-to."

**2<sup>nd</sup> grade:** Consider using a graphic organizer and/or having students complete the writing independently.

