

Vegetable Garden of Guesses

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**Lots of families are making vegetable gardens
Instead of ordinary vegetables, make a Garden of Guesses.
Some vegetables have funny names like 'Runner Beans'
What if you put a 'runner' or sneaker alongside as a CLUE ?
Read this story for ideas.
Make some labels for your garden.
Or put clues beside the vegetables. Turn it into a puzzle sheet for people to guess.
Can be done with photos online.**

THEN

Design your own garden or make this into a picture book with your illustrations.

Here are some clues:

ARTWORK Garden of Guesses

1. Jumping beans (skipping rope)
2. Chips (woodchips)
3. Silver Beet (Silver drum with drumsticks)
4. Lettuce (letters with red mailbox)
5. Potato (pot + toe of shoe)
6. Rocket salad (toy rocket)
7. Spring onion (spring)
8. Leek (tap with/out leak)
9. Thyme (clock or watch)

READ THIS '**Vegetable Garden of Guesses**' STORY FOR IDEAS

I'm the new kid.

What if no-one wants to be my friend?

'This is your Buddy from the Big School,' says Miss Something. 'Ask him anything you want to know.'

My new teacher's name is hard to say. There's so much I don't know yet.

But I have got a soccer ball.

'I'll look out for you at playtime,' says my Buddy. 'So you don't get pushed in the mud.'

Outside our classroom window, there is just ...

Slippery, sloshy MUD.

Miss Something gives our class a Spelling Bee.

'Elephant is a hard word to spell. Spell it.' says Miss Something.

I say, 'I T.'

'Correct,' says Miss Something and smiles.

My Dad used to trick me with that one.

So I know what to say.

Each class has a bit of school to look after and keep tidy.

Grade 6 got the taps.

Grade 5 got the oval where they play soccer

And our class got the **Mud**.

At playtime, the little kids play soccer in the slippery, sloshy mud

By the time we line up to go back inside, we are mud children.

And there are muddy prints everywhere, especially on the walls.

'Muddy Buddies!' says Miss Something. 'Wipe your feet! And your hands!'

Miss Something decides, 'We will make this mud into a garden!'

What shall we plant? The class can vote.

Flowers?

Vegetables?'

'Yuk,' says Grace 'I hate green stuff.

Let's make mudpies instead.'

During Art, we do **mud sculptures**. I make a mud soccer ball.

Miss Something makes flower pots.

But Ahmid, our School Caretaker, wants a garden too.

'Less mud for me to clean up,' he says.

The class vote.

After Miss Something counts the votes, she says, 'We are planting beans. They grow fast.

And we can eat them.'

Grace says, 'But beans are green!'

In class, we read about seeds and vegetables and flowers.

For homework, I have to read the 'Not Yucky Green Plants' book. So does Grace.

Each Monday, we do 'gardening' because Miss Something gives out STARS stickers. We move lots of mud and Miss Something takes BEFORE and AFTER class photos. Grace and I ALMOST have a mud fight, in our gumboots. So Miss Something says Grace and I have to plant an extra row of beans, and hang the flower baskets.

Our class plants other vegetables like potatoes, spinach and carrots.

'I don't know the names of many vegetables,' I say.

'I'll help,' says my Buddy.' My Mum has a vegetable garden at home. She grows herbs too and they have long names on them.'

Miss Something hears that. 'Botanic names,' she says. 'They are the proper names.'

'What if you only know vegetable names in another language?' Buddy asks Ahmid.

'Happens to me all the time,' smiles Ahmid who holds the ladder.

We put up hanging flower baskets and I bump my head. 'Ow!'

I was hit by a flower whose name I didn't know.

Ahmid says. 'In between the vegetables, let's plant a Garden of Guesses. I have some things we can use.'

'What's a Guess?' I ask my Buddy.

'When you're not sure about something and you try lots of answers.

Like maths,' says my Buddy.

I like maths. I always count the cracks on the path before I jump over.

On his push bike, Ahmid has a broom and a basket full of old stuff

like fence wire, a guitar with no strings and a running shoe

He piles up some things in a shape, and stands back.

'Guess what this is?' says Ahmid.

'Hard Rubbish stuff?' says my Buddy.

If I stand on my head, it looks like an upside down hook

'Junk?' says Grace leaning over. 'Recycling?'

Ahmid says, 'Something to make people think.'

'Yeee.....ssss...' says Miss Something who looks puzzled.

My Dad would know what Ahmid has built. Grace works it out too.

'A question mark?' 'she yells and Ahmid nods.

From his bike basket, he takes the old, floppy sneaker and puts it next to some beans. 'Guess what that is?'

'Green beans. Yuk,' says Grace. 'And a sneaker.'

'So?' asks Ahmid. 'Guess what kind of beans?'

I know that you run in sneakers, so they are runners.

'What do you do in sneakers, Grace ?' asks Ahmid.

'Walk. Run.'

'Runner beans,' says my Buddy. We laugh.

Miss Something asks, 'What else could you show for Guesses?'

'Skipping rope for **jumping beans,**' I say. 'You can jump over the rope.'

'Let's have a ladder **for climbing beans,**' Grace says.

'Letters for lettuce,' says my Buddy. "And **P for peas.'**

We laugh but Miss Something shakes her head. 'No toilet humour please.'

'Think about what you could collect for our Garden of Guesses,' says Miss Something.

'Think about other vegetables, like potatoes or silver beet'

'I don't like potatoes,' says Grace.

'French fries or chips are from potatoes,' says Miss Something. 'Do you like them?'

Grace nods.

'Wood chips for chips.' I say.

'A silver drum to beat for silver beet?' says Ahmid, pulling some drumsticks out of his basket.

Last week we had a Hard Rubbish collection and....

now all the little kids bring stuff for Guesses..

'Look. A broken ladder' for climbing beans,' says Grace.

'That costs zero dollars!'

Everybody wants to have a turn now. Even the Big Kids.

'Can we guess?' they ask. 'Is that a dinosaur?'

'No. It's a snap dragon'

'That's a flower, not a vegetable.', the Big Kids say.

That's the one in the hanging basket!

Miss Something draws a map of the garden.

She marks ten places.

Each Guess has a number.

'Which ten will we put in the garden ?' asks Miss Something.

Grace says, 'I like the beans art best. But let's try to guess the others..'

Ahmid puts a tiny kangaroo on some barbed wire.

'What's that? 'ask the Big Kids

'This is a 'roo' on a barbed wire fence. I love **roo barb.'**

'But that's not how you spell **rhubarb,**' says Miss Something.

'That's the whole idea,' says Ahmid. 'This is a Garden of Guesses.'

Miss Something laughs, 'Let's write an e-story about our Garden, with pictures.'

Miss Something downloads the photos from the school camera.

'Choose the one you like best for your portfolio,' she says.

'I like Ahmid's Question Mark best, says Grace. 'It isn't green.'

All the children write in their portfolios about the Garden of Guesses...

Miss Something enters our garden for the Fun Day Contest

'Good guess Grace. Now spell M.U.D.'

'M.U.D.' we say and spell together.

I can spell.RHUBARB and MUD

And I have a Muddy Buddy who plays soccer.

Even Ahmid's spelling is getting better.

'R.H.U.B.A.R.B. is a very hard word to spell, 'smiles Miss Something. 'Spell it.'

'I.T.' says Ahmid and they both laugh.

So do I.

ARTBRIEF:

DRAW your own vegetable Garden of Guesses.

Links:

- Eco-school gardens
- Nutrition
- Recycling
- Problem solving
- Buddies
- E Portfolios
- Soccer