

Dear Teacher,

The two enclosed take home activities were developed to enhance the Growing Things Kit. The main objective is to get parents involved and help them understand what their children are doing in science. These activities are optional but highly suggested. We hope you will find them useful. Please ask your students to keep the completed Family Journal page in their journals. You can decide whether to send only the Family Journal page or the student's journal with it. Allow students to assemble their own items for the take home activity. Remind them to return the bag to class after completing the assignment.

- **Factors influencing Plant Growth, Materials List:**
 - ✓ 1 family letter with questions to be answered in the science journals.

- **Hairy Heads Materials List:**
 - ✓ 1 cup of grass seed, wrap ½ tsp in plastic wrap for each student to take home. Plastic wrap is included in your kit.
 - ✓ 30 5oz foam cups. You can also use paper cups, pantyhose, ½ of a cracked egg shell, yogurt or cottage cheese containers. The materials are endless. Be creative.
 - ✓ 2 bags of potting soil let the students help measure a cup full into their bag to take home.
 - ✓ 30 bags
 - ✓ 1 blank, lined, Family Journal page and Parent Letter explaining the activity. Duplicate a class set and/or make available on your Teacher Web Page.

Dear Parents,

We are working on Growing Things in our science class. Here is a take home activity for you to work on with your child. Have fun with your child and let him/her show you what he/she has learned. Please make sure your child completes and returns the science journal page. Enjoy.

Thank you.

➤ **Hairy Heads:**

- ✓ Draw a face on a cup or container. Fill with 2/3 cup of potting soil.
- ✓ Put grass seed in the cup.
- ✓ Moisten the soil and place it in the light on a windowsill. Keep the soil damp.
- ✓ Observe the cup each day to measure the growth.
- ✓ Answer the following questions in your science journal:
 - How many days after planting did your grass start to appear?
 - How many days did it take to grow 1 inch?, 3 inches?, 6 inches?
- ✓ When the “hair” grows high enough, cut it into a hairstyle. As your “Hair Head” continues to grow, change the hairstyle.
- ✓ Draw a picture of your “Hair Head” in your journal and write about what you observed as you “Hair Head” grew.

Dear Parents

We are working on Growing Things in our science class. Here is a take home activity for you to work on with your child. Have fun with your child and let him/her show you what he/she has been learning in class. Please make sure your child completes and returns the science journal page and the unused materials in the bag. Have fun and enjoy.

Thank you.

Take Home Activities

Factors influencing Plant Growth

- ✓ Take your child to the backyard or for a walk in your neighborhood. Look for plants that have grown in unusual places or in unusual ways. For example, along buildings, in driveways or in cracks in the sidewalk, etc.
- ✓ On your journal page, draw a picture of the plants growing in the unusual places you found. If possible name the plants.
- ✓ Discuss with your child the following questions from the journal page:
 - Why do you think the plants grew like that?
 - How do you think the plants got there?
 - What do you think makes this a good place for a plant to grow?

Family Journal Page

Hairy Heads

Name: _____ Date: _____

- Draw a picture of your “Hairy Head” and write about what you observed as your “Hairy Head” grew.

How many days after planting did your grass start to appear?

How many days did it take to grow?

1 cm? _____

2 cm? _____

3 cm? _____

Family Journal Page

Factors Influencing Plant Growth

Name: _____ Date: _____

➤ Draw a Picture of the plants you saw and where you found them.

➤ Why do you think the plants grew like this? _____

➤ How do you think the plants got there? _____

➤ What do you think makes this a good place for a plant to grow? _____
