

## Our Wonderful World – some projects to try....



Spring time is perfect for **growing seeds**.

Encourage your children to look closely at the seeds and think about what they may grow into and how they will change. Talk about how we help seeds and plants to grow. Get creative with making pots/containers to grow seeds and plants in.



You can make your own **snail habitats** in containers as simple as these buckets that are normally used to dig in the dirt. Encourage your children to add things they think the snails would enjoy.

As they build a habitat and watch the snails move inside it, you may want to talk about or point out some of these facts about land snails:

### Fun Facts About Snails:

- \* Most land snails are herbivores and different types will eat a variety of plants, including leaves, flowers, and rotting material.
- \* Land snails often eat dirt so they have enough calcium to make a strong shell.
- \* Snail shells grow as the snail grows. The oldest part of the shell is the middle of the spiral.
- \* The biggest snail is the Australian Trumpet Sea Snail. Its shell can grow over 35 inches from tip to tip!
- \* The biggest land snail is the African Giant Snail. Its shell can grow over 15 inches across!
- \* Snails are ectotherms (or "cold-blooded") because their temperature is regulated by the temperature of their surroundings.

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**Feeding birds** is a wonderful way to introduce your children to a wide variety of local wildlife. Watch your feeder with your children and try to identify all the various species of birds that visit. While birds will naturally visit any backyard, adding bird feeders and different types of food will attract more and unique species. Here are a couple ways children can study the birds:

- Make a checklist of the birds you see or take photos of each bird.
- Identify them in a book or online.
- Draw pictures of them in a nature journal.
- Take notice of the different colours, songs and behaviours of each type of bird.

### **Core Bird Feeders**

- Making a bird feeder from an apple couldn't be easier and is a perfect project. Instead of throwing out apples that have bad spots in them or are past their ripeness level, use them to make bird feeder. All you need to do is cut your apple in half, use a spoon to scoop out the core and seeds and then stuff the hole with a mixture of bird seed and peanut butter. Hang them from tree branches in your backyard using string or pipe cleaners.

Try a **spring scavenger hunt** in your back garden or safe outdoor space, see how many things you can tick off the checklist....