Better Parenting

Sprout Seeds Without Soil

Can seeds grow without soil?

Helps Your Child Grow



Reasoning and Problem-Solving

Setting up two growing conditions, checking the mung beans each day, and recording changes gives your child practice carrying out a simple investigation.

Steps

- A picture book may say that seeds need light, soil, and water. Ask, “Can a plant begin growing without soil?”
- Set up an experiment with mung beans and clear cups so changes are easy to see.
- Soak the beans overnight, then divide them into two groups based on the question: place one group on a damp washcloth and the other in a cup of soil.
- Choose a regular observation time, such as after breakfast, and draw what changes each day.
- If the cloth or soil dries out, mist it with water.
- Over time, compare the sprouts. Both groups may sprout without the same material, although one may grow faster.
- Continue with a new question: does light matter, and what happens when one group receives less light?

Tips

- Observing at the same time each day makes it easier for your child to keep up the record.
- If they ask a new question - “Would it sprout with just a little soil?” - add another cup to the experiment. Spread a thin layer of soil in it, add mung beans, and compare what happens.

Observations

- ○ Tests the question “Can a plant grow without soil?” and checks the result
- ○ Keeps watching how the mung beans change