



Little Gardener Trims Leaves

Care for a plant by trimming its yellow leaves.

Helps Your Child Grow



Scientific Inquiry

Comparing leaf color and condition to decide what needs trimming gives your child practice classifying visible features and using them to make a choice.



Fine Motor

Aiming child scissors at a leaf stem and controlling the cut gives your child practice with hand-eye coordination and tool use.

Steps

- Invite your child to help care for a houseplant by finding leaves that may need trimming.
- Look closely at the plant together. Compare green and yellow leaves and ask your child to describe the colors and other visible differences.
- After listening, explain: “The green leaves look healthy. The yellow leaves may be old, so we can trim them off.”
- Trim the dry yellow leaves together. If a leaf is partly green and partly yellow, leave it in place: “I’m not sure about this one. Let’s keep it and look again next time.”
- On the next plant-care day, revisit the leaf you left and compare how it looks now.

Tips

- If a leaf droops without turning yellow, do not rush to cut it. It may need water. Water the plant, wait a few days, and observe whether the leaf changes. See “Watch a Plant Drink” for a related activity.

Observations

- Examines the leaves’ color and condition and trims away the yellow leaves
- Uses scissors to trim a leaf