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Activity: **Gardening Routines: I'm Getting the Garden Ready for Spring**

Description: Routines provide consistency that fosters trust and creativity. Once students feel safe in their routines they start to anticipate what comes next and can build on everyday concepts and practice skills over and over until they feel successful. The garden is a great place to provide consistent routines with living feedback.

Materials (if needed): A small gardening area or pots for container gardening, soil, plants, seeds, gardening tools, watering cans or a hose, compost or coffee grounds.

Instructions: **I'm getting the garden ready for spring...**

Cleaning the garden

- I can rake up the leaves
- I can put the leaves into a bag
- I can pull out all the weeds from the veggie garden

Feeding the garden

- I can scoop and dig compost or coffee grounds into soil

Planting the garden

- I can plant seeds in the the garden in April/ early May (carrots, greens, radishes, onions)
- I can plant veggie plants in the garden Mother's day or later (tomatoes, basil, peppers)

Caring for the garden

- I can water the plants everyday
- I can pull out the weeds from the garden

Enjoying the garden

- I can pick the veggies and fruit from the garden
- I can wash the veggies and fruits
- I can taste, smell and cook with the veggies/ fruit

**Tabletop Activities**

- Planting seeds indoors to plant in the garden later (beans, pumpkins, cucumbers)
- Watering indoor plants or planted seeds
- Fill a bird feeder with bird seed

Target areas (how this learning is meaningful to students):

### **Gardening Goals:**

- Social Skills: completing a family activity (raking leaves, weeding, digging in the soil)
- Sensory exploration of natural objects: soil, plants, trees, grass
- Sequencing: completing steps in gardening activities (use first, next and then language)
- Orientation & Mobility: finding landmarks on our way to the garden or around the yard

### **Learning Targets**

- I can use my fingers to pick up and bag leaves
- I can use a tool to dig in the dirt
- I can help clean up my work station (finished items in finished buckets)
- I can make a choice between two table top activities