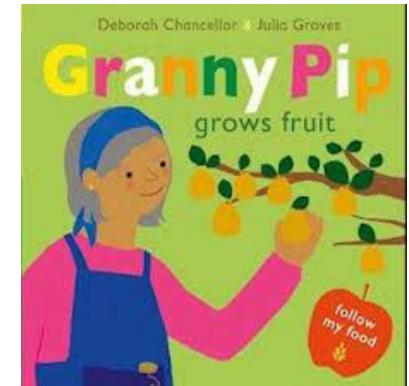


Granny Pip grows fruit by Deborah Chancellor & Julia Groves

Being able to buy fruit is something we take for granted, but what if we had to grow our own?

A little girl helps Granny Pip as she plants fruit bushes, feeds them with fertiliser, prunes and then harvests. Growing fruit is hard work, but eating it is delicious!

The fourth title in the 'Follow My Food' series about where our food comes from and how it is produced, with themes of sustainability and animal welfare.



English: Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Early Learning Goals

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants;
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Resources:

Granny Pip grows Fruit by Deborah Chancellor
Images from the book
Variety of fruits to explore
Seeds to grow fruit
Soil, seeds, plant pots, rakes, trowels etc
Books

Ensure children have read and are familiar with the book, *Granny Pip grows fruit*.

Exploring the seasons:

Using images from the book, sort the pictures into the activities that Granny Pip and her granddaughter do throughout the year. E.g. sweeping fallen leaves in Autumn, cutting back branches in Winter, planting seedlings in Spring and watering the plants in Summer.

Observational drawing:

Granny Pip grows strawberries, raspberries, apples and pears. Have these fruits available for the children to explore – this could be how they feel, how they taste or how they smell. (Check allergies first)
Display these fruits and give the children the opportunity to draw these fruits using a range of different drawing materials.

Growing fruit:

Give children the opportunity to grow their own fruit. Consider and discuss:

- The best times to plant which seeds
 - When to harvest the fruits
 - How often to water the seedlings
 - Where the best place is to plant them

Sensory / messy play:

Set up a small world using moist soil as well as seeds of different shapes and sizes. Encourage the children to explore the textures, smells and sensations. You could also add in pots and gardening tools so the children can develop their physical skills as they dig and transfer soil from different pots and containers to another.

Composting

Granny Pip spreads the soil with steamy compost to help her raspberry plants grow. Talk about the benefits of composting with the children and then create your own compost bin. Encourage the children to collect scraps, sort recyclable material etc and help children to learn about environmental awareness, sustainability and regeneration.

Sharing books about growing and gardening:

Alongside 'Granny Pip grows fruit', share lots of different stories and non-fiction books about growing different foods and gardening. You could include recipes and cookbooks as well to encourage the children to read widely.

Recap what the children have learnt:

- The seasons and seasonal changes
- You could collect words to describe the look, taste, feel and smell of the different fruits the children have explored
- Importance of watering plants – what do plants need? Use the end pages in the book to support this.

Other ideas to use with this book:

- Explore items of clothing that are appropriate for different seasons, can the children sort these?
- Create a role play area together for a garden centre. Children could create seed packets to add to this as well as use junk modelling to create gardening tools

A little bit of fun: follow the trail of pips to match the words and pictures found at the back of the book.

Jenny Guest is an independent educational consultant and writer alongside her role as an Assistant Headteacher in a large London primary school. She has been a primary school teacher for ages 3-11. Jenny is also an avid reader of children's literature and runs @bookishwaytoplay on Instagram, which aims to showcase and review the very best children's books, as well as create accompanying supportive learning activities for toddlers, preschool and primary school age children.

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