BABY BEANS

Themes: seeds; plants

Skills: observing; communicating

Materials:

dry lima beans
paper towels
plastic bag
paper and pencils

Directions:

1. Place the lima beans between paper towels and wet them thoroughly.
2. Put the beans in the plastic bag, seal and set in a warm place overnight.
3. Let the children dissect the beans the next day. (Demonstrate how to take the seed coat off, then gently separate to see a little plant.)
4. Ask the children to draw pictures of the beans and the "baby plants" inside them.

Challenges:

Soak other dry beans and dissect them.

Grow lima beans in a plastic bag. Fold a paper towel to fit in a sandwich bag. Staple halfway across the bag. Put in several dry lima beans, water, fold over the top, and staple to a bulletin board. Observe to see how long it takes for the stem and root to appear.

Explanation: Seeds contain "baby plants" or embryos that will grow into new plants.

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