

What does a plant need to grow?

- 1- The kids get a baggy and place one seed in it.
- 2- Water – kids place one blue water bead in bag
- 3- Sun – kids place one yellow water bead in bag – you can explain how the plant uses the energy from the sun
- 4- Air- one clear water bead in bag - explain that plants use this in photosynthesis
- 5- Soil – One black bead in bag. I explain that the soil holds the nutrients that our plants need to grow. If the nutrients are not available the producer will need to fertilize.
- 6- Nitrogen – green bead – explain that this is a nutrient that helps the plant grow green and healthy
- 7- Phosphorus – purple bead – Phosphorus will help their plant grow healthy roots
- 8- Potassium – pink bead – Potassium will help the plant fight disease.

Then show the kids a seed in a bag with all 7 beads that was started in advance. Their eyes light up to see that their seed will sprout in such a short time. I tell the kids to check their seed every day to see how it changes. At this point I have a lot of parents/teachers ask if they can make one too.

I have a sign that explains the seed will germinate in a week. It also explains that these are just water beads and only represent the things a plant needs. If they would like the seed to grow into a plant it will need to be planted in soil.