Grow On!

Newsletter for MG SPROUTS Families

Session Five: Plantzilla

Dear _____:

Today I learned all about Mortimer's plant named Plantzilla! Plantzilla was like a pet. Mortimer adopted him for the summer and brought him home. Weird things started happening around Mortimer's house. Mortimer's dog, Grollier, disappeared and Mrs. Henryson thought Plantzilla ate Grollier!! Silly mommy! Mortimer took good care of Plantzilla, feeding him and giving him water. In the end, everybody loved Plantzilla!

We made our own plant pet today! My plant pet is named _____. I will need to take care of it. I am bringing it home in a plastic bag, just to be careful.

Our Master Gardener leaders told us to bring home our plant pet and place it in a bright spot with indirect light. Tomorrow, I need to open the bag and take out the container. Every couple of days, I need to give it a drink of water. I need to keep the potting soil moist.

The pothos should root in a week or so. In a few more weeks, new leaves should start appearing! In time, I will be able to make even more cuttings from my plant pet!

Thanks for taking me to SPROUTS!

Love,

_____ (name)

I had a lot of fun today at MG SPROUTS! I am looking forward to coming to the next session

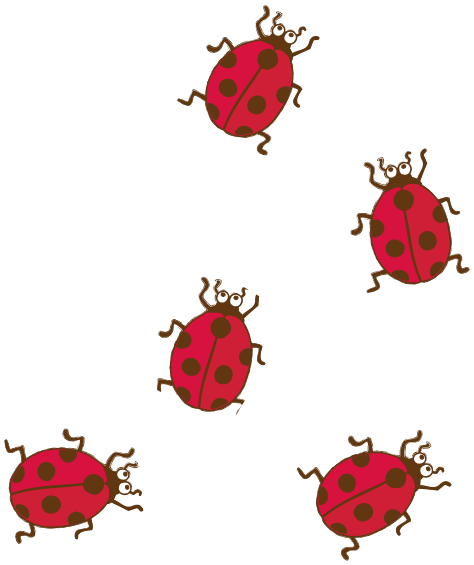
_____

I have some journal sheets to work on before then. I can look in our garden for ideas to draw and write about!

Interior Plants

Interior plants are an ideal way to create attractive and restful settings while enhancing our sense of well-being. In addition, houseplants can be a satisfying hobby and can help purify the air in our homes. Indoor plants not only convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, but they also trap and absorb many pollutants. Many of these chemical compounds, which are released into our air through a process called "off-gassing," come from everyday items present in our homes and offices. To be a successful indoor gardener, you need to understand how the interior environment affects plant growth and how cultivation differs from growing plants outdoors.

For more information about growing house plants, see UGA Cooperative Extension Publication, ***Growing Indoor Plants with Success*** (B 1318), available online at http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1318



MG SPROUTS
Horticulture Activities for Kids

MG Sprouts Horticulture Activities for Kids. © UGA Extension

Interior Plants for Low Light Areas

- Chinese Evergreen (*Aglaonema modestum*)
- Cast Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)
- Bamboo Palm (*Chamaedorea erumpens*)
- Japanese Aralia (*Fatsia japonica*)
- Philodendron Pertusum (*Monstera deliciosa*)
- Fiddle-Leaf Philodendron (*Philodendron bipennifolium*)
- Gold-Banded Sansevieria (*Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii')*
- Nephthytis (*Syngonium podophyllum*)

Excerpted from Growing Indoor Plants with Success (B 1318), http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1318

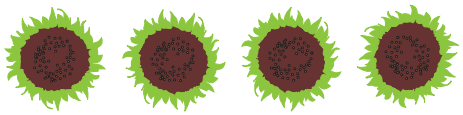
The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Agricultural and environmental sciences are only as important as the food you eat, the clothes you wear, and the water and air around you. To improve the quality and guard the safety of life's necessities, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has gathered world-renowned scientists and exceptional students.

The CAES is one of the oldest and among the best U.S. colleges of agriculture. In its classrooms, its Agricultural Experiment Stations and its statewide network of Cooperative Extension offices, the faculty and staff of the CAES are dedicated to discovering, teaching and delivering the science required for healthy living to flourish in Georgia.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/

Please return the *Where I Live and Play journal sheet with your child at the next SPROUTS session.*



My SPROUTS Journal ideas...

Do you have a favorite house plant at home or in your classroom at school? What does it look like?

How might you tell if your favorite plant was happy and healthy? What if it were sick?

How would you measure your favorite plant's growth?

How does your favorite plant make you happy?

If your child enjoyed Plantzilla, may we suggest:

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart
ISBN-13: 978-0312367497

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