

# Parts of the Plant

## Purpose

To teach a child about the parts of a plant.

Age: 3 1/2–4 years old.

## Prerequisite

Introducing the Plant.

## You will need

- Small potted plant.
- Large piece of newspaper.
- Small bucket with water.
- Wet towel.



## Presentation

- Invite your child to a table to learn about the parts of a plant.
- Introduce the plant to your child and ask him to name the different parts that he can see.
- Open the piece of newspaper, and place the plant on top of it.
- Remove the plant from the pot, and gently shake off the soil around the roots. Explain to your child why the roots require soil to survive.
- Place the roots of the plant into the bucket of water, until you can see that all of the soil has washed away from the roots.
- Open up the wet towel, and place the roots onto the towel.
- Ask your child if he can name another part of the plant.
- Guide him in observing the four parts: **roots, stem, branches, leaves.**

- Place the plant on the nature table for your child to observe for the remainder of the day. Explain to him that he must cover the roots with the damp towel, so that the roots do not dry out.
- At the end of the day, show your child how you re-pot the plant.

## Variation

- Point out the parts of the plant listed in the Vocabulary textbox, and discuss the characteristics of each part with your child.

## Nomenclature cards

(see blackline masters)

- Use as outlined on page 2.
- After your child understands the vocabulary, provide him with a prepared booklet to complete independently, titled *Parts of the Plant*.
- Your child can complete his own booklet, which he can color, label, and decorate with a cover.



## Vocabulary

- Roots** The part of a plant that grows into the ground. The roots hold the plant in place and absorb water and minerals from the soil.
- Stem** The main part of a plant above the ground. The stem supports the branches, flowers, etc.
- Branches** The parts of a plant that grow out from the stem. (In the case of a tree, they grow out from the trunk.)



**Leaves**      The thin flat green parts of the plant that grow on the stem or branch.

