

Garden Scientists

Grow your own mini-garden! Combine science and crafting while planting seeds in cleaned eggshells and observing how plants grow.

What You'll Need

• Clean eggshell halves	• Empty egg carton
• Potting soil or seed-starting mix	• Fast-growing seeds such as grass, basil, lettuce, or marigolds
• Small spoon	• Water and a small watering cup or spray bottle
• Washable markers for decorating	• Sunny windowsill or bright growing spot

Plant Your Mini-Garden

- 1. Prepare the shells.** Ask a grown-up to rinse empty eggshell halves with warm, soapy water and let them dry completely. Place them upright in an egg carton.
- 2. Decorate.** Use washable markers to give each shell a funny face, plant name, or colorful design.
- 3. Add soil.** Spoon seed-starting mix into each shell, leaving a little room at the top.
- 4. Plant the seeds.** Follow the seed packet for planting depth. For very small seeds, gently press them into the soil and cover lightly.
- 5. Give them a drink.** Moisten the soil without soaking it. Too much water can make seeds and roots unhappy.
- 6. Find the light.** Place the carton in a bright location appropriate for the seed type.
- 7. Observe every day.** Check moisture, look for sprouts, and record changes as your plants grow.
- 8. Transplant later.** When seedlings are large enough, have a grown-up gently crack away the shell before planting the seedling in a larger pot or garden.

Super Scholar Challenge

Plant two of the same seed. Give one more light than the other and record what you observe. Keep the other conditions as similar as possible.

Watch a Seed Become a Plant

Garden scientists observe carefully, ask questions, make predictions, and record what happens.

Science Word	Kid-Friendly Meaning
Seed	A tiny package that can grow into a new plant.
Germination	When a seed begins to sprout and grow.
Root	The part that grows downward, holds the plant in place, and takes in water and nutrients.
Stem	The part that supports the plant and helps move water and nutrients.
Leaf	A plant part that captures light and helps the plant make food.
Seedling	A young plant that has recently started growing.

Garden Scientist Observation Log

Day	What do you notice?	Height
1	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
5	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

Questions to Explore

- **Predict:** How many days do you think it will take before you see the first sprout?
- **Measure:** How tall is your seedling? Measure it again a few days later.
- **Compare:** Did all of your seeds sprout at the same time?
- **Observe:** What changes do you notice in the color, height, roots, or leaves?
- **Explain:** What do you think plants need in order to grow?

Grown-Up Notes

Because raw eggs can carry harmful bacteria, an adult should prepare and thoroughly clean the shells before children use them. Wash hands after handling eggshells, soil, and plants. Use seeds and plants that are appropriate for children, and supervise young children around small seeds.

Bonus idea: Give each eggshell plant a name and make a tiny plant label. As the seedlings grow, take a photo every few days to create a plant-growth timeline.