



Second Nature - *Green Spaces*

Today we learned

Green Spaces are open pieces of land that don't have buildings and are accessible to the public. Green spaces can be woods, a field, a school yard, a park, or a playground! We also have green spaces at our homes. Our backyards and indoor plants are our own private green spaces! Green spaces are important because they give us a place to enjoy our natural environment, they can be a place for us to run around and exercise, and give us a place to soak up the sun!

In many cities, community gardens are greenspaces. A community garden is a piece of land gardened by a group of people. Many people use community gardens to grow fruits and vegetables, but they can also be used to grow other plants, like flowers! Remember that plants start as a seed; they need water, nutrient rich soil, and sunlight to grow!

Now at home

Activity 1 - Letter to the Mayor

Have a discussion with your child about your local government's role in managing the greenspaces in your city. Explain that they are primarily in control of how much greenspace there is, where the greenspace is located, and managing the greenspace. While there are some awesome parks in our cities and towns, there can always be more, and they can always be improved.

One way to show something is important to you is by writing a letter to our local government government! Work together to write a letter to your mayor! Have your child include what he or she learned about green spaces, why they are important, and what they would like to see in new or existing greenspaces. Work together to address the envelope and drop it off in the mail! Alternatively, you can type a letter and email it to your mayor's office!

Activity 2 - Seed Hunt

With your child, take a look through your refrigerator and pantry. Have them identify any items that started off as a seed. Remember that canned and jarred goods may also include items that started off as a seed!

Have your child inspect some fruits and vegetables. Can you still see a part of the stem attached to it? Did that fruit or vegetable grow above ground or underground? Did it grow on a tree? Can you still see any soil on it? Cut open one of the fruits or vegetables, and have your child inspect the inside. Where are the seeds? How many seeds do you see? Are they big or small? Fun fact, strawberries are the only fruit that wears its seeds on the outside!

After inspecting the fruits and vegetables, eat it as a snack! Yum!

To send us photos, videos, or questions, email us at education@sproutup.org!

