

Activity:

1. Walk into the garden and point out items that have the characteristics of what students will be exploring on their hunt (colors, shapes or ABC's). Show students several examples.
2. Tell the students that they will be exploring the garden looking for data about colors, shapes or ABC's. Explain that data is information that you collect.
3. Send the students out into the garden to gather data and record it on their In the Garden Worksheet.
4. When all students have finished, gather them in a central place or back in the classroom to share their findings.

Tying it Together:

1. What did we look for in the garden today?
2. What did we find out about colors, shapes or ABC's in the garden?
3. Which color, shape or ABC did we see the most?
4. Which color, shape or ABC did we see the least?
5. How does data collecting help us learn about things?

When we gather information and write it down, it helps us remember what we saw and we can share our information with others.

Special Care:

Younger students may not be able to write words or know their ABC's, colors and shapes. This activity could be done as a whole group and the teacher could collect the data for the group. In the classroom, the teacher could model how to organize the data on paper and students could participate in a group or in individual journals copying what the teacher writes down.

Digging Deeper:

Collect the same data during different seasons. Compare the results of what you find in the spring vs. fall or winter.

National Standards:

CCSS.ELA

- Foundational skills: Print concepts
- Foundational skills: Phonological awareness
- Foundational skills: Phonics and word recognition

CCSS.MATH

- Counting and cardinality
- Measurement and data
- Geometry

Lesson Extensions:

Language Arts: Make an alphabet book about ABC's in the garden.

Math: Look for different attributes: plants that have pointy, rounded or feathered leaves; plants that have seeds; bugs in the garden; etc.

Science: Collect data on other items in the garden: temperature of soil; compost; outdoor temperature; rainwater; height of plants; etc.

Social Studies: Take the students out to find "treasures" (healthy foods) in the garden. Then create a treasure map of the garden.

Literature Connections:

The Vegetable Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta, Bob Thomson and Edgar Stewart

Over Under in the Garden: An Alphabet Book by Pat Schories

Pick a Circle, Gather Squares: A Fall Harvest of Shapes by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky

Shapes in the Garden



Circle



Triangle



Rectangle



Square



Sphere



Cube



Cone



Cylinder

ABC's in the Garden

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X
Y	Z		

Colors in the Garden

Red	Orange
Yellow	Green
Blue	Purple