



Too Many Tomatoes - Lesson Plan

Age level: preschool, kindergarten

Learning focus: sequencing, descriptive language, action words (verbs)

Materials:

- tomato
- construction paper tomatoes
- red ball
- book *Too Many Tomatoes* by Ode/Culotta, Kane Miller Books

Procedure:

1. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Begin by showing the tomato to the children. Let them pass it around the circle. Talk about it. *Who has eaten a tomato? Who has grown a tomato? What color is the tomato? What shape? How does it feel?*
2. Set the tomato aside. Roll the red ball to a child in the circle. Have the child with the ball say one thing they could do with a tomato.
3. When the child suggests an idea, write that suggestion (one or two simple words: grow, smell, taste, roll, squish, etc.) on a construction paper tomato and give to the child to hold onto.
4. That child rolls the ball to another student who suggests a new idea for what can be done with a tomato. Challenge each child to come up with a suggestion that hasn't already been given.
5. After all students have contributed a suggestion, collect the construction paper tomatoes. Tape them to the front board. Read together as children are able.
6. Discuss and play with the order/sequence of the actions. Change the order as students suggest so that the sequence makes some sense; e.g. the tomato would need to be planted before it could be picked, perhaps sliced before cooked, etc.
7. After a sequence has been agreed upon, invite the children to act out each step; e.g. planting, rolling, squishing, eating, etc.
8. Share the story *Too Many Tomatoes* with the students.

