

Planting Seeds

Introduction Series



Lesson Summary

Students consider the meaning of the words ‘think’ and ‘give’ and put them into practice as they plant their seeds and show kindness to their plants. All lessons open and close with the Planting Seeds Song. Throughout all five Introduction lessons, students explore the theme of kindness by charting their kind actions on a Flower Bulletin Board, creating their individual representations of kindness, and by reading and discussing the book *Grow Kind*.

Sample Gifts

- My friend forgot to bring a snack to school today, so I shared mine with her.
- When my cousin came over to play with me, I included my little brother in our game so he wouldn’t feel left out.
- I thanked my mom for the dinner she cooked, and I told her I love her.

Parent/Guardian Connection

ThinkGive@Home: Introduction ([PDF](#))

Educator Guide ([PDF](#))

We are excited to share ThinkGive Primary’s Planting Seeds program with you! In this guide you'll find an overview of the curriculum and extra teacher tips and suggestions for activities that may require advance planning.

LESSON 1.1: PLANTING SEEDS

Students will Examine

The meaning of the words 'think' and 'give'.

Pre-Activity Prep

Purchase seeds for students. Choose seeds that germinate quickly, such as sunflowers, marigolds, beans, etc.

MATERIALS

Planting supplies: clear plastic cups, soil, water, seeds

MEDIA TO PREP

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

OPENING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

ACTIVITY: Planting our Seeds

Hold up a packet of seeds for the class to see. Share that today we'll be starting a project called ThinkGive.

THINK + GIVE: What do these words mean?

Discuss:

- Let's all THINK about these seeds. What comes to your mind (e.g., how can we make these seeds turn into plants, what will the plant look like when it's grown, how can we take care of it)?
- Let's THINK, what do seeds need to grow (e.g., soil, water, sun)?

Write student answers on the board/chart paper.

Discuss:

- What can we GIVE to these seeds (e.g., water, light)?
- If we GIVE to the seeds, what will happen (e.g., they sprout, grow roots, grow leaves, become plants)?

Students work in pairs or individually to plant their seeds. Label each cup with the student name(s).

Ask: How can we show kindness to our planted seeds?

STUDENT ACTION

Explain: Be kind to your seed! Remember to THINK about what it needs and GIVE it your attention and care.

CLOSING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

★ TEACHER TIP

Print the Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#)) to display the words for students as you sing.

★ TEACHER TIP

Some plants will grow faster than others. Remind students that even if their plant looks different, it is still growing with their care and attention.

★ TEACHER TIP

Use clear cups, bags, or plastic water bottles so that students have a better view of the growth of their plant.

LESSON 1.2: SEEDS OF KINDNESS

Students will Examine

How giving to/caring for their planted seed is a kind action.

Pre-Activity Prep

- (Optional) Prepare Paper Seeds ([PDF](#)) cutouts (if your students will not be doing the cutting)
- (Optional) Prepare the Flower Bulletin ([PDF](#)) (you may choose to partially prepare this ahead of time)

MATERIALS

Colored paper (for the flower)
Colored paper (4 colors)
Cutouts: Paper Seeds ([PDF](#))
Flower Bulletin ([PDF](#))

MEDIA TO PREP

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

OPENING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

ACTIVITY: Creating the Flower Bulletin Board

Students check on their seeds.

This lesson is focused on preparing the Flower Bulletin Board and posting the first seeds/kind actions. The Flower Bulletin Board will provide a visual for how students' kind actions help more flowers/kindness grow.

Explain: Today we will work together to create a big paper flower to hang on our wall. Then we will cut out many small paper seeds; we will use these during our ThinkGive program to write all of our kind actions, then we will post them up around the flower. This will let us share our kind actions with our friends, and read about their kind actions!

Use the Cutouts: Paper Seeds ([PDF](#)). Students cut some seeds for the Introduction series. While students are cutting the seeds, use the Flower Bulletin ([PDF](#)) to chart out the flower and hang it on the wall.

Students use a paper seed to write down one kind action they have taken to care for their seed, they then post it on the Flower Bulletin Board.

Note: Take a photo of the bulletin. You will use this photo in the wrap-up.

★ TEACHER TIP

Refer to the Educator Guide ([PDF](#)) on how to create paper seeds.

★ TEACHER TIP

If some students are not comfortable cutting along outlines yet, cut some seeds in advance of each lesson.

★ TEACHER TIP

The illustration provided for the Flower Bulletin Board is just an idea for the visual. Feel free to design your own flower with available materials.

STUDENT ACTION

Explain: Continue to be kind to your seed, and try to be kind in other ways, to other people. Just like you are caring for and being kind to your seed, you can care for and be kind to others.

CLOSING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

LESSON 1.3: WHAT IS KINDNESS?

Students will Examine

- How their kind actions can extend beyond caring for their seed to caring for others.
- What being kind/taking a kind action looks like for them.

Pre-Activity Prep

- (Optional) Prepare Paper Seeds ([PDF](#)) cutouts (if your students will not be doing the cutting)



MATERIALS

Art supplies (blank paper, crayons, paints etc.)



MEDIA TO PREP

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

OPENING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

ACTIVITY: What does 'Kindness' Mean to You?

Students check on their seeds. Then they can add a paper seed to the Flower Bulletin Board explaining a kind action they have taken since the last ThinkGive session. Model by adding a kind action yourself!

Note: You can choose to build in this reflection time at the start of each new lesson or any time between lessons.

Discuss:

- How can we be kind to others (like we are kind to our planted seeds)?
- When you are kind to someone, what are you GIVING to them?
- What are different (and small) ways you can GIVE (be kind)?

Now get creative! Students create artwork—a simple crayon drawing or a more sensory activity with paints, or cutting and gluing—that represents what kindness means to them. Then form a circle and invite students to share what they created (see guiding questions below). Collect and save these creations for the wrap-up series.

Guiding questions:

- What did you like the most about this activity?
- What kindness is happening in your artwork? In others' art?

STUDENT ACTION

Explain: Think about kindness and what it means to you. Be kind in small ways! Hold the door open for someone, put seeds out for the birds, or let your friend go on the slide first. Kindness can be shown in so many ways!

CLOSING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))



TEACHER TIP

If students bring up tangible gifts, encourage them to think about more intangible ways of giving (small but meaningful actions).



CONNECTION

Read-aloud book: [K is for Kindness](#) (6:37). Illustrates the different ways of showing kindness. Through this, and other similar books, students can see how kindness can take many forms.

LESSON 1.4: GROW KIND

Students will Examine

- How taking small but meaningful actions to care for others makes us grow kind.

Pre-Activity Prep

- (Optional) Prepare Paper Seeds ([PDF](#)) cutouts (if your students will not be doing the cutting)

MEDIA TO PREP

Read-aloud book: [Grow Kind](#) (4:32)
Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

OPENING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

ACTIVITY: Grow Kind

Students check on their seeds. Then, if they choose, they can add a paper seed to the Flower Bulletin Board explaining a kind action they have taken. Remind students that they can write about a kindness they gave to their seed, or one that they gave to something/someone else.

Note: You can choose to build in this reflection time at the start of each new lesson, during lessons, or any time between lessons.

Watch or read-aloud: [Grow Kind](#) (4:32), a book about small actions that make others feel cared for and that help us grow kinder.

Discuss:

- How did Keiko GIVE kindness to her sister, Annie?
- Did Keiko THINK before giving to her neighbors? How did Keiko put more thought into the gifts she gave to Mrs. Stephens and Mr. Carrol?
- What brave, kind actions did Keiko take?
- How did Keiko spread kindness even further than people she knew?
- How did Keiko feel at the end of her day? How does being kind help how we feel?
- Keiko shared her harvest, but we can give in so many other ways. What are some things we can do to grow kind?

TEACHER TIP

Add emphasis to the word 'give' to connect it back to Lesson 1.1, when students learned about what 'ThinkGive' means.

STUDENT ACTION

Explain: Think about how you can grow kind! Be kind in small ways. Let someone go ahead of you in line, pick up trash, or play with a friend who is all on her own. All actions that show care and attention are kind!

CLOSING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

LESSON 1.5: OUR BIG LEARNINGS

Students will Examine

- The big learnings from the Introduction series; exploring the words 'ThinkGive' and the meaning of kindness.

Pre-Activity Prep

- Print the Paper Leaf ([PDF](#)) cutout on green paper.



MATERIALS

Cutout: Paper Leaves ([PDF](#))



MEDIA TO PREP

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

OPENING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))

ACTIVITY: Share a Seed

Students check on their seeds. Then students take a few minutes to read the paper seeds posted on the Flower Bulletin Board. Ask them to choose one they would like to share in circle time.

DETAILED SHARE

Students form a closing circle and share the seed/action they chose. This can be their own action or a classmate's action that they really liked.

REFLECTION

Cut out a leaf using the Cutout: Paper Leaves ([PDF](#)) to mark the end of the Introduction Series. Using the reflection questions below, summarize and write the main takeaways and learnings on the leaf. Hang the leaf on the flower's stem.

Guiding questions:

- When we THINK and we GIVE to others, what happens?
- What are the most important things we learned about kindness?
- What big learnings can we add to our leaf for this lesson?

CLOSING

Planting Seeds Song ([PDF](#) | [Audio](#))



TEACHER TIP

Another format for sharing student actions is Mingle, Pair, Share. Students mix around as music plays. When the music stops, students find the partner closest to them and they share in turn. Repeat a couple of times so students are sharing with different friends.