



Magnuson
Nature Programs

NATURE ADVENTURES FOR TOTS
"Rockin Roots and Stems"



"Hold and Pick It"

"Pinch and Sprinkle"

(both sung to the tune of Are You Sleeping, aka Frère Jacques)

Hold and pick it, hold and pick it,
(pantomime holding a stem with one hand and pinching fingers with the other)
Use 2 hands, use 2 hands, (show both hands)
Hold the stem with one hand, (hold out stem hand)
Pick it with the other hand, (hold out pinching fingers)
Use 2 hands, use 2 hands. (show both hands)

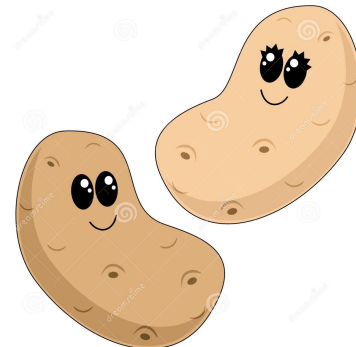
Pinch and sprinkle, pinch and sprinkle,
(pantomime cupping one hand and pinching fingers with the other hand)
Use 2 hands, use 2 hands,
(pantomime planting)
Hold the seeds with the one hand, (hold out cupped hand)
Sprinkle with the other hand, (hold out pinching fingers)
Use 2 hands, use 2 hands. (pantomime sprinkling)

Did you know that potatoes are underground stems, also known as tubers?

It's easy to grow your own Potatoes!

Supplies needed:

- 1 package seed potatoes (most potatoes for sale at the grocery have been treated with an anti-sprouting preservative, so it's best to buy seed potatoes at a garden center)
- 10-15 gal. nursery pot, half whiskey barrel, or the bottom 1/2 of an old garbage can with holes drilled!
- Potting soil with plenty of compost and perlite in it for extra drainage.



1. Look over each potato to find all the little "eyes", then cut each potato into pieces that have at least one "eye".
2. Fill your large planting container(s) with approx. 4 inches of soil.
3. Plant the potato pieces with the flat side down and the "eye" side up, and with each potato piece approx 5-6 inches apart.
4. Cover each potato piece with 2 inches of light, fluffy soil and water well.
5. Place in a sunny spot and water when soil gets dry 1-2 inches down (use finger test)
6. When stems have grown 6 inches above the soil level, pluck the leaves off the bottom 3 inches of leaves and add 3 more inches of soil to the pot.
7. Repeat step #6 as stems keep growing taller, until the soil is almost to the top.
8. Keep watering the plants until they begin to turn yellow and wilt, then stop watering.
9. When all plants have completely wilted, it's time to harvest.
10. Spread out a tarp or piece of plastic on the ground, then turn the potato pot(s) upside down on top of the tarp and have a treasure hunt!