



## Programme 7 – Growing Things

A local version of the children's classic 'The Enormous Turnip' and a chance to discuss growing things.

### Before the Programme

If you have any plants available let the children observe how they have grown.

### Rhyme

#### **Mary, Mary Quite Contrary** (trad)

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and cockle shells  
And pretty maids all in a row.

Hurley-Burley, Hurley-Burley,  
How does your garden grow?  
With daffodils and tulips  
And cabbages all in a row.

### Story

#### **The Enormous Turnip** (adapted by Liz Weir)

### Song

#### **The Enormous Turnip** (by Chris Ward)

*See link on teacher's resources page for music & words*

## FOLLOW UP SUGGESTIONS

- The Hurley-Burley man was digging his garden. Why do we need to dig the soil?
- Talk about the essentials for plant growth – heat/light and water.
- Play the tape of the story again and get the children to join in chanting 'turnip, turnip, com on up' each time it occurs.
- Tell the story yourself, substituting names of children in the group.
- Then sing the song using the same names (if you dare – this might be so popular it could go on all year!).
- Co-operation. Play some simple games where the object is to do things together, rather than have a 'winner' e.g. 'freeze tig' where the person tagged has to freeze until someone releases them by crawling under their legs or an old fashioned game like 'A Farmer Wants a Wife'.

## ACTIVITIES

### Seeds

Buy a pack of turnip seeds and let each child plant one in a yoghurt pot – you might have to keep it dark for a while, water it and feed it but when it has grown sufficiently you can send it home. Other excellent seeds to try are sunflower and nasturtium – of course you can always try peas and beans and a variety of growing mediums – do seeds grow in stones, sand or just water? Why not add a few drops of cake colouring to the water in a vase or white carnations – you can see the carnations change colour and children can see how important water is.

### Printing with fruit

Use pieces of turnip in the same way as you would potatoes for potato printing – it is strong enough to be carved into many shapes – don't forget however that you can make some super pictures by cutting most vegetables in half and dipping them in some paint – peppers, mushrooms and onions are particularly effective.

### Interest Table

Why not have a 'gardening' table with plant pots, rakes, hoes, trowels, kneeling mats, packets of seeds etc. You might even like to put bowls of soil, compost, sand, shale etc. out for the children to touch.

### Flower power

You can make an imaginative play area into a florists shop – cover babies milk cans with plain sticky back plastic to make six different coloured 'vases'. Then make a variety of coloured flowers using a strip of tissue 1" x 4". Wrap it carefully around the top of a straw holding the base tightly and allowing the top of the paper to fluff into a petal shape. Stick in place with sellotape and put bunches of the flowers into their corresponding coloured vase. The children can come along and select one or two of each colour and have them wrapped – you might even create little cards to put with them – and at tidy up time they have to put the flowers back in the correct vase.

