



Approaches to Learning **Activity for 54 to 60 Months**

Mold Gardens

Participation in activities like this one gives children an opportunity to grow in their ability to persist in and complete a variety of tasks, activities, projects, and experiences.

Materials:

- Leftover food (bread, fruit, cheese, vegetables)
- Clear container with airtight lid

What to do:

1. Talk about where the child has seen mold before and how he thinks it occurs.
2. Select leftover food to use in the experiment, avoiding anything with meat or fish.
3. Cut the food into chunks and spray with water. Place the chunks in the jar. Avoid having the pieces touch, if possible.
4. Seal the jar. Tape the edges of the lid if you aren't sure it is airtight.
5. Label what's in the jar and set it aside.
6. Check back each day and watch the results with the child. Fuzz — usually white, blue, or green — will start to grow after about three days.
7. Talk with the child about the changes as the food rots over the next week: Which food grew the most mold? Which foods changed in shape or consistency?
8. Throw out the mold garden after two weeks.

