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Professor Gray
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Part B- Commentary

The theme of my activity plans is Nature, with a focus on plants, materials and the environment. I chose to use Nature as I feel it is something that provides multimodal learning. Children can explore different aspects of nature, such as plants and materials, through touch, sight and sound. Throughout my activities, there is creative engagement from the students. While the learning objectives and goals I have set are clear, there's still plenty of opportunity for individualism and self expression.

The activity will begin with the students exploring the question: What is Nature? This is a question we will be referring back to over the coming weeks and throughout this unit of study. The goal is for the students to build upon what is initially known about nature, natural materials such as plants, and the environment around them. The first focus being introduced to vocabulary terms such as *Natural*, *Man-Made*, *Environment*, *Plants*, *Seeds*, and *Earth*. The students will work on distinguishing natural from man-made materials. They will do sorting activities with visual picture cards that are labeled in English and Spanish.

Secondly, the students will move into the second activity, of planting seeds. The students will create a hypothesis about the seeds and which will grow the fastest/tallest. They will keep a "Grow Journal" to record their observations and data. The journal will reflect their knowledge and comprehension of the topic and activity. It also gives them an opportunity to practice emergent literacy skills with drawing/writing within their grow journals.

The last activity that will end this unit of Nature will be the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle activity. In this activity, students learn how to take care of their environment through recycling. They will be able to sort recyclable and discern reusable and reducible materials within the classroom. Ideally, a small clean up of the school playground will take place with the students and parents coming together to use what they have learned to clean their environment. This activity helps the students understand their part in their community and ways in which they can contribute.

The students are at an inquisitive age, where they are more independent. They are interested in being active members of their community. Furthermore, they enjoy working in a team and displaying their creativity. I feel these activities offer an opportunity for children to learn, contribute and be creative. It allows them to also hone large motor and fine motor skills, cognitive skills and is designed to accommodate various learning styles. The lesson will be provided in English verbal instruction throughout, along with American Sign Language (ASL). Visual prompts such as picture cards and labels in English and Spanish are provided throughout. Activities can be modified to meet each child at the level that best suits their learning.