

**45 min**  
Science  
Workshop



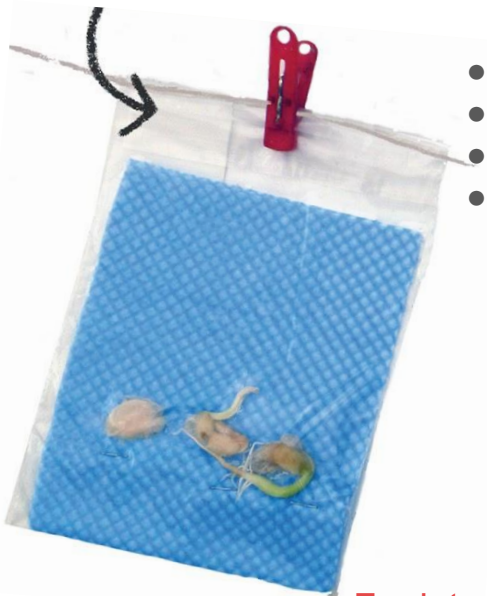
**Ages**  
**3-8**

# Learn-Through-Play Workshop

This OKIDO downloadable workshop is designed for families and can be easily delivered in the home by YOU. It is designed in collaboration with British Science Association and follows learning to facilitate Early Years and KS1 development using easy-to-find objects from around the home.

This 45 minute learn-through-play workshop includes:

- Watch an episode of Messy goes to OKIDO together
- Discuss the science with easy-to-follow pointers around the subject
- Complete a make-and-do science activity
- Reinforce the learning with a fun, follow-up worksheet



Theme - **Nature**  
Subject - **Seeds and plants**

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### Watch and learn together

Together with your child, watch this 10-minute episode of Messy goes to OKIDO - 'OKIDO In Bloom'. [Link to OKIDO In Bloom episode.](#)

The sky is full of big grey rain clouds. Messy watches his sandcastle outside get washed away by the pouring rain and wonders why does it have to rain? So off he goes to OKIDO to see if he can get some help. Here he competes with Felix and Zoe in the OKIDO City In Bloom competition and finds out why!

In this episode Messy and his friends discover that plants need air, sunlight and water in order to grow and stay healthy.

**Germinate** is the word we use to describe new plant growth from a seed or bean after a period of dormancy.

### Talk about the science

Right after watching, ask your child some questions about what they've seen:

- What's wrong with the OKIDO tap?
- Who brings all the rain water to OKIDO?
- How do the gang help Fluffy come to OKIDO?

Now talk to your child about what they've learned:

- Where does rainwater come from?
- What three things do plants need in order to grow and be healthy?
- What does a cloud need in order to move?

*If your child asks a question that you don't know the answer to - just investigate together to find out!*

Don't worry - all the information you need to know is explained in the episode : )



New words: Germinate



### Now germinate a seed

You will need:

- A selection of dried beans
  - Black eyed peas, broad beans, runner beans for example
- A clear ziplock or sandwich bag
- Clean dishcloth
- Water
- Stapler
- Somewhere sunny to hang

First, talk to your child about all the plants they know. Think of all the trees, flowers, seeds, fruits and vegetables that they may already know. Growing a plant from seed is one of the greatest **life skills** known to humans.

- Soak your beans overnight.
- Wet the dish cloth and fold or cut into a shape to fit the bag neatly.
- Pop the cloth into the bag and staple it to stop it crumpling to the bottom.
- Drop the beans in too - making sure they have contact with the cloth.
- Now seal the bag and hang it in a sunny window.

Watch the beans grow!

### Experimenting and data collecting

You can experiment with:

- Different beans - you could pop different beans into different bags and compare.
- Different locations - try the same beans in two different locations / windows and see which grows faster.

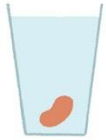
When the beans have germinated you can continue this experiment by planting the sprouting beans into a pot of compost.

Try to write on the bags which beans went in so that you can know what they should grow into when you plant them out into pots.

You can use tin cans, food cartons, loo rolls and lots of junk as plant pots, just make sure that there are drainage holes at the bottom and put them on a plate or tray to catch the water.

**What to do:**

- 1 First soak your beans in a glass of cold water the day before.



- 2 Cut some dish cloth to fit inside the plastic food bags.



**Watch seeds grow**

Plants need sunshine and water to grow.

- 3 Staple the dish cloth to the plastic bag, leaving a few centimetres at the bottom for the roots to grow.
- 4 Add some water to the dish cloth to keep it moist. Then put a few beans in the bag.



- 5 Seal the bag and hang it near a sunny window. Watch the beans grow!

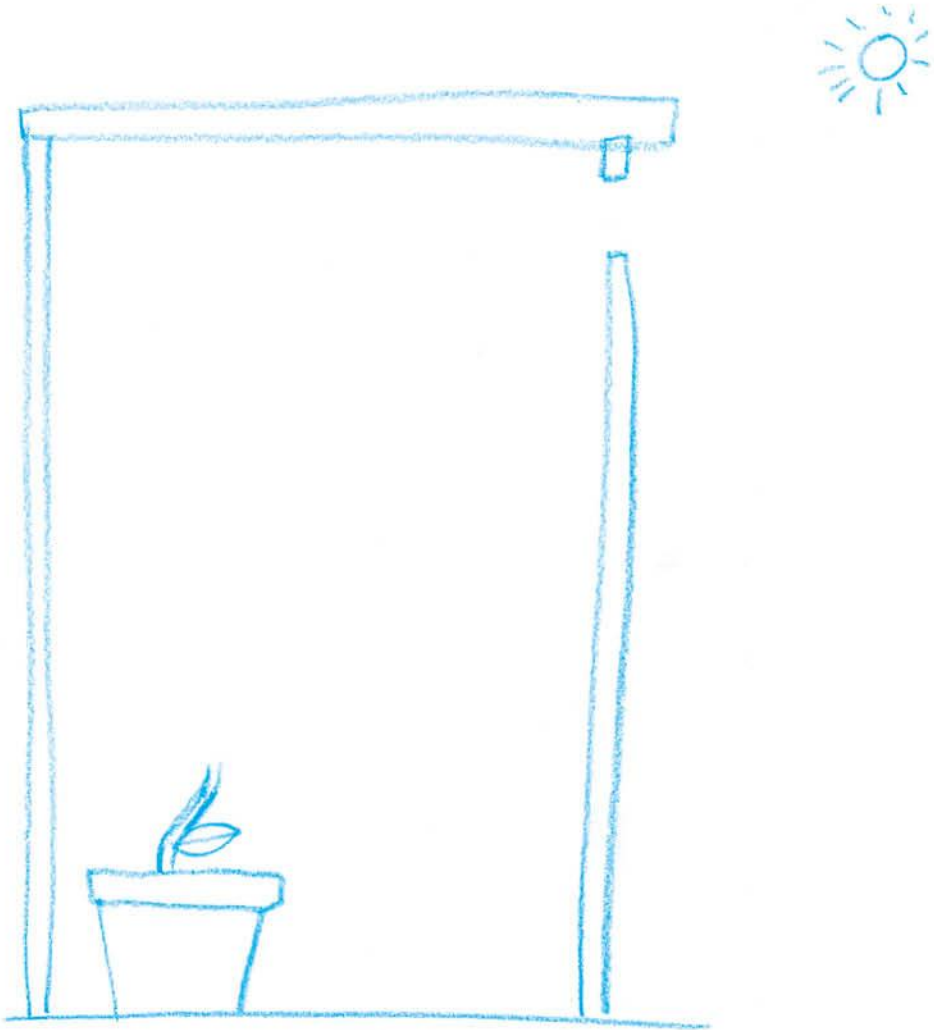


- 6 When the seedlings have leaves, they will need air to keep growing. Plant each seedling in a small pot of soil and then transfer to a larger pot or plant in the garden when they grow bigger!



## Plants grow towards the light

This plant is growing up and through the hole towards the sun. Draw it!



## Where are the flowers?

Draw some flowers on the stalks below.  
Then draw the insects that live on the plants!

