

# Let's **Grow** Outside!

*With Kildare County Childcare Committee*



**Update 3, April 2021**

## **How's it Growing?**

Hi everyone and thank-you to those of you who have been in touch with us to let us know how your growing is going. If you have not been in touch we would really appreciate a little update and even some photos if you have them!

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So far you have hopefully set out on growing some vegetable and sunflower seeds. We hope this is going well and that the children have enjoyed this.

Like me you are probably wondering, when can I plant out my seedlings??

The answer is- wait a little longer for sunflowers and runner beans! **There is still a chance of frost.** You can start **bringing these outside for a few hours during the day** though to 'harden them off'.

Also, you can **transfer your seedlings to a larger pot and give them some support** – a small cane or wooden skewer should do the trick for now, tied loosely with soft string.

## *What to sow and plant now:*

**Outdoors** you can sow salad leaves, carrot and beetroot seeds, as well as onion sets and seed potatoes if you have not already.

**Indoors** you can now sow your Winter Squash and courgette seed if you are growing these.

You can view our video for this week

here: <https://animoto.com/play/X3Bhbo2r18qOdmFAfJt51w>



## P O L L I N A T O R S



Growing also helps children to get out and notice the little creatures who help us to produce food.

Amazingly Bees are essential to the growth of so many vegetables and plants, in fact to life on this planet (up to 90% of food plants are pollinated by bees, more info: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/would-we-starve-without-bees/zkf292p>).

Children love learning about bee and insect life cycles.

We have included a 'wildflower' mix with your seeds so that you can grow even a small area of these bird, butterfly and bee friendly beauties. *Please note it has come to notice recently that some seeds in wildflower mixes may not be native so it is important to sow these within your own grounds / gardens / containers. Nonetheless flowers are essential to bees, even dandelions provide valuable food to bees at this time of year.*

Find out more about bees in Ireland: <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/bees/>

Bee resources & craft ideas:

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/864>

<https://www.twinkl.ie/resource/t-tp-5971-bee-fact-cards-fact-cards>

<https://www.kidssoup.com/activity/bees-crafts-activities-lessons-games-and-printables>

### **Butterfly resources:**

This is also a great opportunity to talk to the children about insects, why not go on a bug hunt, build insect 'hotels' or root for creepy crawlies in the soil (see

our [‘We’re Going on a Bug hunt’ blog](#)). This is bound to create lots of opportunities for fun and learning!

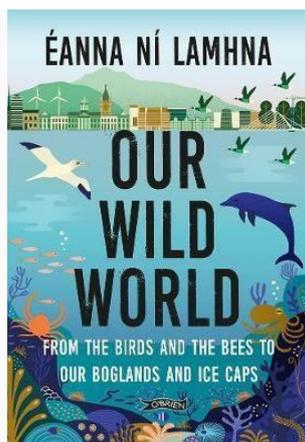
### Books – extending our learning



Grow, Flower, Grow video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eL90SIBIys>

Enzo the Bee Cosmic Kids Yoga: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyj5LooYWyg>

Books you and for older children:



Our Wild World by Éanna Ní Lamhna

Also of interest: The All Ireland Pollinator Plan [https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Gardens\\_actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf](https://pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Gardens_actions-to-help-pollinators-2018-WEB.pdf)