

Throughout the month of January, first grade has been focusing on plants during our Science lessons. The students are learning that plants have parts that help them meet their basic needs and that there are many different kinds of plants. The “New Year, New Veggie” challenge with Brussel Sprouts could not have come at a better time for us. We were able to dive into our lessons with various hands-on activities. The students in this first grade class were the students who planted the brussel sprout seedlings in the garden last year while they were in Kindergarten. After several long months of watering and caring for the garden, the students were able to witness firsthand the changes that took place from planting the seed to watching the transformation into a large plant. The students were also able to understand what all plants need in order to survive. All of these discoveries are part of the NJ Common Core State Standards for Science.

SCI.K-2.5.2.A.a - *Living and nonliving things are made of parts and can be described in terms of the materials of which they are made and their physical properties.*

SCI.K-2.5.3.2.B.c - *Most plants have roots to get water and leaves to gather sunlight.*

SCI.K-2.5.3.2.B.3 - *Explain that most plants get water from soil through their roots and gather light through their leaves.*

SCI.K-2.5.3.2.C.c - *Humans can change natural habitats in ways that can be helpful or harmful for the plants and animals that live there.*

SCI.K-2.5.3.2.C.3 - *Communicate ways that humans protect habitats and/or improve conditions for the growth of the plants and animals that live there, or ways that humans might harm habitats.*

SCI.K-2.5.3.2.D.2 - *Determine the characteristic changes that occur during the life cycle of plants and animals by examining a variety of species, and distinguish between growth and development.*

SCI.K-2.5.4.2.E.a - *Plants need sunlight to grow.*