

Unit 7: Your Environment

Unit 7 introduces the children to the characteristics of living things, and how living things grow and change, as they take a look back and examine how they are different now than they were previously. They will take time to reflect upon how they have grown, and celebrate all they have learned this year. Unit 7 also includes a study of fruits and vegetables that introduces the children to seeds and plants and what they need in order to grow.

In addition, the children will explore:

- Gg /g/, Uu /u/, Qq /kw/, Jj /j/, and Zz /z/
- Measurement
- Pennies/nickels
- Story problem equations
- Living/nonliving
- Categorizing fruits/vegetables
- Life cycles
- Blending phonemes
- Patterning
- Graphing

<i>Overviews by Week:</i>	<i>Page</i>
Week 22: How Things Grow	2-4
Week 23: Plant It!.....	5-7
Week 24: Things Change.....	8-10
Week 25: Look At Us Now	11-13



Starfall Education P.O. Box 359, Boulder, CO 80306 U.S.A.

Email: helpdesk@starfall.com

Phone: 1-888-857-8990 or 303-417-6414

Fax: 1-800-943-6666 or 303-417-6434

Unit 7 • Week 22: How Things Grow

This week you will teach the children about how living things grow and change, and the four distinguishing characteristics of living things. The children will also:

- Learn /g/ and identify initial /g/ words
- Compare and contrast themselves to trees
- Be introduced to symmetry
- Compare their heights now to the beginning of the school year
- Discuss characteristics of living things
- Discover things they can do now that they couldn't do as babies
- Practice using pennies and nickels
- Solve story problems

Essential Questions

- *How are you different now than when you first came to school?*
- *What are the characteristics of a living thing?*
- *Why is knowing how to join sets of objects together important?*
- *What is the difference between living and nonliving?*
- *How are you like a tree?*
- *Why is knowing the names of coins and how much they are worth important?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Reading

- *Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print rich environment*
- *Describes the relationship between illustrations and text*
- *Identifies sequence of events*
- *Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences*
- *Recalls important facts from informational text*
- *Recalls information from stories*

Phonics & Word Recognition

- *Recognizes frequently used words in text*
- *Recognizes own name, familiar words, and environmental print*
- *Associates letters with their names and sounds*

Print Concepts

- *Connects oral language and print*
- *Understands that letters form words*
- *Focuses on letter names and shapes*
- *Recognizes relationship between illustrations and text*

Alphabet Knowledge

- *Recites the alphabet in sequence*

Phonological Awareness

- *Identifies or discriminates rhyming words*
- *Recognizes and identifies beginning sounds in words*
- *Counts and deletes syllables in spoken words*

Phonological Awareness (Continued)

- Separates compound words
- Combines onset and rime to form a word
- Recognizes and identifies beginning and ending sounds
- Combines words to form compound words
- Blends phonemes into words
- Isolates and pronounces the initial sounds in words

Vocabulary

- Asks questions about unknown objects and words
- Uses words and phrases acquired through conversations, activities, and read alouds

Speaking & Listening

- Engages in conversations with peers and adults
- Engages in agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g. listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion)
- Asks and answers questions in order to seek help, get information or clarify something that is not understood
- Demonstrates knowledge of nonverbal conversational rules (e.g., appropriate eye contact and facial expressions, and maintaining a comfortable distance in conversation)

Writing

- Independently writes some letters and words
- Writes own name

Language Development

- Demonstrates the ability to listen, understand, and respond in increasingly complex ways

Mathematics

Number Sense

- Uses one-to-one correspondence to determine “how many”
- Recognizes the number of objects in a small set without counting (subitizing)
- Recognizes number of objects stays the same regardless of their arrangement
- Counts in sequence
- Counts a set of objects

Patterns, Operations, and Algebraic Thinking

- Analyzes, compares, and sorts objects by a single attribute and explains
- Combines and separates sets of objects to create new sets
- Understands addition as adding to, and subtraction as taking away from

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- Responds to and uses positional words (e.g. in, under, between, down, behind)

Measurement and Data

- Explores the use and meaning of currency and coins
- Uses measurable attributes to compare objects
- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Measures length, weight, height, size, or capacity of one or more objects
- Uses charts and graphs to collect and analyze data
- Uses terms related to time periods such as morning, afternoon, night, today, tomorrow, and yesterday

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning

- Compares, contrasts, and classifies objects and data
- Makes and verifies predictions

Life Science

- Notices similarities and differences among various living things
- Describes simple life cycles of plants and animals
- Recognizes living things have similar needs for water, food, and air
- Observes similarities and differences in living and nonliving things
- Notices changes in living things over time

Earth and Space

- Observes and describes the weather and how it changes

Social Studies

Self, Family and Community

- Demonstrates knowledge of personal information (hair color, age, gender, phone, address etc.)

Government

- Recognizes patriotic symbols and activities

Geography and Cultural Differences

- Recognizes that people share the environment with other people, animals, and plants

Social Studies (Continued)

History

- Understands how people live and what they do changes over time
- Sequences familiar events in time
- Differentiates past, present, and future
- Describes events that happened in the past

Economics

- Understands that money is needed to exchange for goods and services
- Demonstrates an awareness of the uses of money
- Recognizes the difference between wants and needs

Technology

Technology Use

- Uses technology independently to explore concepts and gain information

Approaches to Learning

Initiative and Curiosity

- Demonstrates flexibility, imagination, and inventiveness tasks and activities
- Develops increasing independence and willingness to try new challenges

Engagement and Persistence

- Attends to tasks for a brief period and seeks help when needed

Reflection and Problem Solving

- Reflects on what has been learned

Creative Arts

Art

- Creates original artwork that reflects thoughts, feelings, experiences, or knowledge
- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects

Creative Movement and Dance

- Participates in a variety of dance and movement activities with or without props
- Expresses concepts, ideas or feelings through movement
- Participates in movement using finger plays, songs, and rhymes

Dramatic Play

- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Health and Nutrition

- Develops awareness of nutritious food choices and habits that promote physical well being

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Demonstrates control, strength, and dexterity to manipulate objects
- Demonstrates hand-eye coordination
- Uses writing and drawing tools

Gross Motor Skills

- Combines a sequence of large motor skills
- Moves with balance and control
- Moves with an awareness of personal space in relationship to objects and others

Social/Emotional Development

Self-Regulation

- Follows simple rules, routine, and directions
- Demonstrates self-help skills

Relationships

- Expresses common courtesy and respects the rights of others (compromises, cooperates, takes turns)
- Seeks assistance from adults or classmates (or assists adults or classmates)

Unit 7 • Week 23: Plant It!

This week you will teach the children about seeds and plants and how they grow, in part through a study of fruits and vegetables. The children will also:

- Learn *Uu* /u/ and *Qq* /kw/ and identify initial /u/ and /kw/ words
- Plant and care for their own grass seeds
- Explore seeds and discover what seeds and plants need to grow
- Observe how water and food travel through the roots to other parts of a plant
- Learn that fruits and vegetables play an important role in keeping people healthy
- Compare and contrast two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes
- Categorize fruits and vegetables by color
- Dramatize “The Turnip”
- Write about their grass plants

Essential Questions

- *What if there were no trees or gardens?*
- *What do you need to do to grow a plant?*
- *What might happen if it never rained?*
- *Why is working together important?*
- *Why are fruits and vegetables good for us?*
- *How do letters and sounds work together to form words?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Reading

- *Retells a story in sequence*
- *Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print rich environment*
- *Identifies sequence of events*
- *Recognizes cause and effect*
- *Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences*
- *Identifies characters, settings, and major events in a story*
- *Compares and contrasts characters, stories, or events*
- *Recognizes common types of literature*
- *Identifies characters in a story*
- *Makes predictions based on titles, illustrations, content and*

prior knowledge

- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Uses illustrations to make inferences*

Phonics & Word Recognition

- *Recognizes frequently used words in text*
- *Associates letters with their names and sounds*

Print Concepts

- *Connects oral language and print*
- *Focuses on letter names and shapes*

English Conventions

- Understands and uses question words

Phonological Awareness

- Identifies or discriminates rhyming words
- Recognizes and identifies beginning sounds in words
- Blend and deletes syllables in spoken words
- Combines onset and rime to form a word
- Combines words to form compound words
- Distinguishes individual words within spoken phrases or sentences

Vocabulary

- Asks questions about unknown objects and words
- Uses words and phrases acquired through conversations, activities and read alouds

Speaking & Listening

- Follows simple and multiple-step directions
- Participates in group discussions

Writing

- Independently writes some letters and words
- Uses drawing, dictation, scribble writing, or invented spelling to convey meaning
- Recognizes writing as a way of communicating for a variety of purposes, such as, giving information, sharing stories, or giving an opinion
- Uses writing tools and materials
- Contributes to a shared writing experience or topic of interest

Mathematics

Number Sense

- Uses numbers to predict, estimate and make realistic guesses
- Counts, compares, and orders groups of objects (more, fewer, less, and/or same)

Patterns, Operations, and Algebraic Thinking

- Analyzes, compares, and sorts groups of objects by a single attribute (e.g., size, shape, color, texture, orientation, and position) and explains

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- Responds to and uses positional words (e.g. in, under, between, down, behind)
- Describes and compares basic shapes
- Identifies shapes regardless of their orientations or size
- Recognizes and identifies basic two- and three-dimensional shapes

Measurement and Data

- Explores the use and meaning of currency and coins
- Uses measurable attributes to compare objects
- Uses charts and graphs to collect and analyze data
- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Measures length, weight, height, size, or capacity of one or more objects
- Orders objects by measurable attributes
- Uses terms related to time periods such as morning, afternoon, night, today, tomorrow, and yesterday

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning

- Uses tools and equipment to explore objects
- Shows curiosity by asking questions and seeking information
- Participates in scientific investigations, analyzes, draws conclusions, and communicates results
- Makes and verifies predictions
- Compares, contrasts, and classifies objects and data
- Uses tools and equipment to explore objects

Life Science

- Describes simple life cycles of plants and animals
- Recognizes living things have similar needs for water, food, and air
- Observes similarities and differences in living and nonliving things
- Notices changes in living things over time

Physical Science

- Observes and describes how objects move
- Explores relationship of objects to light
- Develops awareness of the properties of objects

Earth and Space

- Understands the use of natural resources and demonstrates environmental awareness and responsibility (e.g. reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Investigates properties of earth materials including water, soil, rocks, and sand
- Observes and describes the weather and how it changes

Social Studies

Self, Family and Community

- Recognizes and accepts responsibility

Government

- Recognizes patriotic symbols and activities

History

- Sequences familiar events in time
- Describes events that happened in the past

Economics

- Understands that an individual earns money through work
- Demonstrates an awareness of the uses of money

Technology

Technology Use

- Uses technology independently to explore concepts and gain information
- Navigates simple on screen menus
- Enjoys electronic forms of storybooks and informational texts
- Uses technology for research with teacher's support

Approaches to Learning

Engagement and Persistence

- Attends to tasks for a brief period and seeks help when needed
- Focuses attention on tasks and experiences despite interruptions or distractions

Reflection and Problem Solving

- Reflects on what has been learned

Creative Arts

Art

- Creates original artwork
- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects

Creative Movement and Dance

- Participates in a variety of dance and movement activities with or without props
- Expresses concepts, ideas or feelings through movement
- Experiences different moods, tempos, and rhythms in music activities
- Participates in movement using finger plays, songs, and rhymes

Dramatic Play

- Participates in teacher-guided dramatic play activities
- Engages in cooperative pretend play with other children
- Represents fantasy and real-life experiences through pretend play
- Reinforces concepts through dramatic play

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Health and Nutrition

- Develops awareness of nutritious food choices and habits that promote physical well being

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Demonstrates control, strength, and dexterity to manipulate objects
- Demonstrates hand-eye coordination

Gross Motor Skills

- Moves with balance and control
- Moves with an awareness of personal space in relationship to objects and others
- Combines a sequence of large motor skills

Social/Emotional Development

Self-Regulation

- Recognizes and regulates emotions, attention, impulses and behavior
- Demonstrates self-help skills

Relationships

- Seeks assistance from adults and classmates (or assists adults or classmates)

Social Problem Solving

- Works with others to solve problems

Unit 7 • Week 24: Things Change

This week you will teach the children about how living things change and grow. They will discover some of the many ways in which they have grown and changed this year. The children will also:

- Learn /j/ and /z/ and identify initial /j/ and /z/ words
- Discuss how babies grow and change and become adults
- Become familiar with the life cycle of a butterfly
- Practice creating and finding patterns in the classroom
- Reflect on and make a list of things they have learned this year
- Match uppercase and lowercase letters
- Explore shape orientation

Essential Questions

- *How are babies and adults alike? How are they different?*
- *What is the life cycle of a butterfly?*
- *How are ants and butterflies alike? How are they different?*
- *How does changing one letter in a word change the word?*
- *Why do we need to know capital and lowercase letters?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Reading

- *Retells a story in sequence*
- *Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print rich environment*
- *Engages in group reading activities with purpose and understanding*
- *Describes the relationship between illustrations and text*
- *Identifies sequence of events*
- *Recognizes cause and effect*
- *Identifies roles of author/illustrator*
- *Makes connections using illustrations/photos, prior knowledge, real-life experiences*
- *Makes connections between pieces of essential information in a text*
- *Makes predictions based on titles, illustrations, content and prior knowledge*
- *Recalls important facts from informational text*
- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Asks and answers questions*
- *Uses illustrations to make inferences*

Phonics & Word Recognition

- *Recognizes frequently used words in text*

Print Concepts

- *Connects oral language and print*
- *Identifies front cover and back cover of a book*
- *Understands directionality in print*
- *Focuses on letter names and shapes*

Alphabet Knowledge

- *Recites alphabet in sequence*
- *Recognizes and names most letters of the alphabet, especially those in their own name*

Phonological Awareness

- Blends syllables into spoken words
- Identifies or discriminates rhyming words
- Recognizes and identifies beginning sounds in words
- Isolates and pronounces the initial sounds in words
- Blends phonemes into words

Vocabulary

- Identifies real-life connections between words and their use
- Discusses words and their meanings
- Uses new vocabulary
- Uses illustrations and context to determine meanings of unknown words

Speaking & Listening

- Follows simple and multiple-step directions
- Engages in conversations with peers and adults
- Participates in group discussions
- Listens to and discusses literary texts
- Asks and answers questions in order to seek help, get information or clarify something that is not understood

Writing

- Independently writes some letters and words
- Uses drawing, dictation, scribble writing, or invented spelling to convey meaning
- Uses appropriate writing conventions with adult assistance
- Explores letter sound relationships while writing
- Contributes to a shared writing experience or topic of interest

Language Development

- Understands people use different languages (including sign language) to communicate

Mathematics

Number Sense

- Uses ordinal numbers
- Counts in sequence
- Identifies the number that comes before or after a given number in a counting sequence

Patterns, Operations, and Algebraic Thinking

- Analyzes, compares, and sorts objects by a single attribute and explains
- Sorts objects by physical attributes
- Creates, identifies, duplicates, and extends simple patterns

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- Describes and compares basic shapes
- Identifies shapes regardless of their orientations or size
- Recognizes and identifies basic two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Sorts two- and/or three-dimensional shapes

Measurement and Data

- Uses charts and graphs to collect and analyze data
- Uses terms related to time periods such as morning, afternoon, night, today, tomorrow, and yesterday

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning

- Makes and verifies predictions

Physical Science

- Develops awareness of the properties of objects

Life Science

- Describes characteristics in the appearance and behavior and habitats of animals
- Describes simple life cycles of plants and animals
- Notices changes in living things over time

Earth and Space

- Observes and describes the weather and how it changes

Engineering

- Designs, builds, analyzes, and modifies structures

Social Studies

Self, Family and Community

- Describes characteristics of where he or she lives and visits
- Investigates ways people form communities

Geography and Cultural Differences

- Recognizes that people share the environment with other people, animals, and plants

Government

- Recognizes patriotic symbols and activities

History

- Sequences familiar events in time
- Differentiates past, present, and future

Technology

Technology Use

- Becomes familiar with interactive applications, games or activities
- Uses technology independently to explore concepts and gain information
- Understands common technology terms, such as computer, internet, mouse, keyboard, device, table, and printer

Approaches to Learning

Initiative and Curiosity

- Demonstrates flexibility, imagination, and inventiveness in approaching tasks and activities

Engagement and Persistence

- Attends to tasks for a brief period and seeks help when needed

Reflection and Problem Solving

- Reflects on what has been learned

Creative Arts

Art

- Creates original artwork that reflects thoughts, feelings, experiences, or knowledge
- Describes or explains own artwork
- Shows care and persistence in a variety of art projects

Creative Movement and Dance

- Participates in a variety of dance and movement activities with or without props
- Expresses concepts, ideas or feelings through movement
- Responds to changes in tempo and a variety of musical rhythms through body movement
- Participates in movement using finger plays, songs, and rhymes

Dramatic Play

- Demonstrates appropriate audience skills
- Represents fantasy and real-life experiences through pretend play

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Demonstrates control, strength, and dexterity to manipulate objects
- Demonstrates hand-eye coordination

Gross Motor Skills

- Demonstrates strength and coordination of large muscles to engage in skills such as jumping, hopping and running
- Moves with an awareness of personal space in relationship to objects and others
- Combines a sequence of large motor skills

Social/Emotional Development

Self-Regulation

- Recognizes and regulates emotions, attention, impulses and behavior

Relationships

- Engages in and maintains positive relationships and interactions with trusted adults and children

Emotional Development

- Demonstrates confidence in own abilities and expresses positive feelings about self

Unit 7 • Week 25: Look At Us Now!

This week, the children take a look back on the school year to recognize and celebrate all they have learned and how much they have grown. The children will also:

- Graph Learning Centers to determine the class favorite
- Discuss the qualities of good friends
- Create a class book about Gingerbread Boy
- Duplicate two and three-dimensional shapes
- Choose the class favorite book of the year
- Review the alphabet

Essential Questions

- *If you could be a character in a nursery rhyme, which character would you be? Why?*
- *Why is knowing the alphabet important?*
- *If you could choose a book to win the award of the greatest book, which book would you choose? Why?*
- *How does knowing sounds in a word help you to match a word to its picture?*
- *What lesson can you learn from the story "The Four Friends"?*

Standards & Benchmarks

Reading

- *Retells a story in sequence*
- *Interacts appropriately with books and other materials in a print rich environment*
- *Asks and answers questions about key elements and details in a text*
- *Describes the relationship between illustrations and text*
- *Identifies roles of author/illustrator*
- *Identifies characters, settings, and major events in a story*
- *Compares and contrasts characters, stories, or events*
- *Recognizes common types of literature*
- *Identifies characters in a story*
- *Recalls information from stories*
- *Makes inferences*

Phonics & Word Recognition

- *Recognizes frequently used words in text*
- *Demonstrates understanding of one-to-one correspondence of letter and sounds*

Print Concepts

- *Understands that letters form words*
- *Recognizes spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters*
- *Focuses on letter names and shapes*
- *Differentiates letters and numbers*

Alphabet Knowledge

- *Recites alphabet in sequence*
- *Recognizes and names most letters of the alphabet, especially those in their own name*

Phonological Awareness

- Identifies or discriminates rhyming words
- Recognizes and identifies beginning and ending sounds
- Blends phonemes into words

Vocabulary

- With guidance and support, explores word relationships and nuances in word meanings
- Uses words and phrases acquired through conversations, activities and read alouds
- Understands and uses describing words

Speaking & Listening

- Describes familiar people, places, objects, and events according to characteristics of attributes
- Speaks in complete sentences
- Follows simple and multiple-step directions
- Listens to and discusses literary texts
- Participates in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about pre-k topics and texts

Writing

- Independently writes some letters and words
- Uses drawing, dictation, scribe writing, or invented spelling to convey meaning
- Recognizes writing as a way of communicating for a variety of purposes, such as, giving information, sharing stories, or giving an opinion
- Uses writing tools and materials
- Explores letter sound relationships while writing

Mathematics

Number Sense

- Uses numbers to predict, estimate and make realistic guesses
- Recognizes the number of objects in a small set without counting (subitizing)
- Recognizes number of objects stays the same regardless of their arrangement
- Counts in sequence
- Counts a set of objects
- Constructs groups of objects
- Counts, compares, and orders groups of objects (more, fewer,

less, and/or same)

- Recognizes and names numerals
- Understands numbers always represent the same quantity

Patterns, Operations, and Algebraic Thinking

- Combines and separates sets of objects to create new sets
- Creates, identifies, duplicates, and extends simple patterns
- Understands addition as adding to

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- Recognizes and identifies basic three-dimensional shapes
- Describes and compares basic shapes
- Recognizes and identifies basic two-and three-dimensional shapes
- Sorts two-and/or three-dimensional shapes

Measurement and Data

- Uses charts and graphs to collect and analyze data
- Becomes familiar with standard and nonstandard measuring tools and their uses
- Measures length, weight, height, size, or capacity of one or more objects
- Uses terms related to time periods such as morning, afternoon, night, today, tomorrow, and yesterday

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning

- Uses tools and equipment to explore objects
- Makes and verifies predictions

Life Science

- Notices changes in living things over time

Physical Science

- Develops awareness of the properties of objects

Earth and Space

- Understands the use of natural resources and demonstrates environmental awareness and responsibility (e.g. reduce, reuse, recycle)
- Investigates properties of earth materials including water, soil, rocks, and sand
- Observes and describes the weather and how it changes

Social Studies

Self, Family and Community

- Demonstrates knowledge of personal information (hair color, age, gender, phone, address etc.)
- Recognizes and accepts responsibility
- Recognizes his or her role as a member of a group (class, family, community)

Government

- Recognizes patriotic symbols and activities

History

- Differentiates past, present, and future
- Describes events that happened in the past
- Understands how people live and what they do changes over time

Technology

Technology Use

- Enjoys electronic forms of storybooks and informational texts

Approaches to Learning

Engagement and Persistence

- Focuses attention on tasks and experiences, despite interruptions or distractions

Reflection and Problem Solving

- Uses self-talk as a strategy

Creative Arts

Art

- Creates original artwork
- Describes or explains own artwork
- Experiments with a variety of art materials
- Shows appreciation for the creative work of others

Music

- Enjoys participating in a variety of music activities

Creative Movement and Dance

- Participates in creative movement and dance from different cultures and times
- Participates in movement using finger plays, songs, and rhymes

Dramatic Play

- Demonstrates appropriate audience skills
- Participates in teacher-guided dramatic play activities

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

Health and Nutrition

- Develops awareness of nutritious food choices and habits that promote physical well being

Physical Development

Fine Motor Skills

- Demonstrates hand-eye coordination

Gross Motor Skills

- Moves with balance and control
- Demonstrates strength and coordination of large muscles to engage in skills such as jumping, hopping and running

Social/Emotional Development

Self-Regulation

- Recognizes and regulates emotions, attention, impulses and behavior
- Uses materials appropriately and puts them away

Relationships

- Engages in and maintains positive relationships and interactions with trusted adults and children
- Expresses common courtesy and respects the rights of others (compromises, cooperates, takes turns)
- Demonstrates sense of belonging to groups

Social Problem Solving

- Works with others to solve problems

Emotional Development

- Demonstrates confidence in own abilities and expresses positive feelings about self
- Demonstrates understanding and acceptance of similarities and differences in others (race, gender, culture, language, special needs, and family)
- Recognizes self as unique having own abilities, characteristics, emotions, and interests