Bouquet Making and Flower Identification

Compass school grows several different types of herbs and flowers to sell at the student designed farm stand. This lesson plan stems (no pun intended) out of student interest in increasing sales at the farm stand. Plant and flower identification skills need development, and that basic skills around harvest technique and display also need to be developed. As it turns out these farm needs link directly into lessons in the classroom including measurement, estimation, understanding and using our senses, memory, and language skills.

Age
K-3

Materials
Flowers
Scissors
Baskets
Vase
Ruler

Preparation: Harvest flowers. Prep baskets and scissors for small student groups.

Samples used:

Fragrance
Lemon balm
Lavender
Hyssop
Carrot or Parsley Leaves
Basil

Texture
Sunflower
Zinnia
Dahlia

Part One
Have students sit in a circle. Review senses. What do we use to see the flower? Eyes. What else can you use to identify a flower? Nose, hands. Identify each specimen for students--sound out and write the word on board. For K-1 learning level, identify letter (“Z” for zinnia, “H” for hyssop. Does the word hyssop sound like a snake hissing? etc…) Pass the specimen around the circle so that students can touch and smell it as you introduce the next plant.

Then tell them that they will test each other’s memory. Pick a quite listener to sit in the middle and put on a blindfold. Then have another quiet hand select a flower from the basket and hand to the blindfolded child. Have the whole class quietly watch as they touch and smell--then
guess which specimen it is. If they can’t guess, have the class make the sound of the first letter, and then help them by saying the name if they still haven’t guessed. Take turns around the circle until class is getting the identification right.

Part Two
Ask students how long the stem of the flower has to be to fit into a vase. Demonstrate by putting one of the specimens in the vase, so that they can see you need 6-8” stem to display flowers. How long is 6-8” on this ruler? Do you have a part of your body that you can use to measure this distance? What do you use to cut the flowers? (show your hands). Let’s measure our hand to elbow distance. Is yours about 6-8”? Can you use this to measure your harvest? Have groups of 2-3 students take a harvest basket and scissors. Go fill baskets and make bouquets!