Title:  **Window Sill Garden**

Life Skill Area:: Acquiring, Analyzing and Using Information

**LIFE SKILLS TAUGHT**
Propagating plants from seeds  
Learning what elements are required for plants to grow  
Identifying seeds  
Differentiating seeds from non-seeds  
Recycling  
Acquiring, Analyzing and Using Information  

**MATERIALS NEEDED**
1. Egg carton, preferably paper  
2. Potting soil  
3. Water  
4. Various small seeds, such as beans, corn, squash, tomato, apple, alfalfa, wheat, oats, soybeans, and flower seeds  
5. Various small non-seed items, such as raisins, chocolate chips, mini-marshmallows, red hots, Cheerios, etc.

**PROCEDURES**
Note:  This activity is best conducted outdoors.
1. Arrange seeds and non-seeds on open display.  
2. Using hands, fill cupped side of egg carton with potting soil.  
3. Place 1 or 2 seeds—or non-seeds—in each cup.  Pat soil to cover seed.  Add small amount of water.  
4. Close lid to carry home.

**DISCUSSION**
As participants look at the offerings available to plant, discuss which are seeds and which are not.  We eat many seeds (beans, corn, peas, etc.), but many items we eat, though they came from seeds, have been processed and will not grow (raisins, oatmeal, rice cereal, grits).  Explain that chocolate flavor comes from the coca plant which grows in another country.  Sugar—in the red hots and marshmallows—grows as sugar cane.  Talk about what is typically required for growth: sunlight, water, warmth, nutrients.  Compare plant needs to human needs.  Discuss the potential in a single seed: From a tiny apple seed a large tree can grow which produces thousands of apples.
HOME ACTIVITY
Keep Window Sill Garden watered and monitor progress of growing plants. Successful plants may be transferred outdoors.