Dear Families:

This week, the children created a classroom scrap garden.

What’s a scrap garden? Kitchen scrap gardening is the practice of growing plants from items that you might normally throw away or toss into your compost bin.

Kitchen scrap gardening is a great way to teach children about plant parts, as well as the importance of reusing and recycling the earth’s limited resources. Vegetable and fruit scraps like oranges, lemons, limes, sweet potatoes, avocados, carrots, beets, onions, celery and ginger are good candidates for scrap gardening.

Over the past few days, we discussed food waste and the different plants that might grow well in our classroom. The children then created a list of possible plants that we can grow and eat.

While deciding on plants for our scrap garden, we explored the neighborhood and discussed what plants are and how we can care for them in our classroom. We also discussed what we ate for lunch and how we might grow plants throughout the year by creating indoor gardens when the outdoor growing season comes to an end.

If you have food waste at home, ask your child to help you plant and grow some food scraps and predict how the plants might change over time. Feel free to ask us what we’re growing in our classroom if you’d like to get some ideas for your own scrap garden.

Find out more about kitchen scrap gardening by reading the “[**Scrap Gardening for STEM Learners**](https://earlysciencematters.org/scrap-gardening-march-2022/)” blog post and trying out the activities in our “[**Growing Lettuce from Scraps**](https://earlysciencematters.org/lessons/growing-lettuce-from-scraps/)” lesson plan at [**earlysciencematters.org**](https://earlysciencematters.org/). Happy gardening!