



Handout 4

Life Science: Plants



Three things to consider when caring for plants in your classroom: *Light, temperature, and humidity.* Child friendly plants include: grape ivy, Christmas cactus, aloe, cast iron plant, spider plant, bamboo, and pothos.

Plant Safety Tips

- ✓ Make sure you are having the children explore non-poisonous plants (inside as well as outside areas)
- ✓ Avoid putting plants with heavy pots on top of furniture that a young child might pull down on himself/herself or on another child
- ✓ Be mindful that small rocks in potted plants can be a choking hazard for small children
- ✓ Fertilizers used with plants can be toxic

Do Not Use These Poisonous Plants with Young Children

Azalea Daffodil bulbs Delphinium False hellebore Foxglove Hyacinth
Hydrangea Larkspur Lily of the valley Lupine Monkshood Oleander
Rhododendron Pansy Wisteria

Flowers

Household Plants

Caladium Dumb cane

Black locust Buckeye Cherry Chinaberry
Goldenchain Holly
Mountain laurel Sandbox Tung

Trees

Baneberry Belladonna Caladium
Caper spurge Death camas
Nightshade Poison hemlock
Pokeweed Water hemlock
White snakeroot

Ground Plants

Castor bean Daphne Duranta Holly Jessamine Lantana Mistletoe
Mountain laurel Privet Pyracantha (firethorn) Rosary pea Yew

Shrubs

Goldenchain Moonseed Philodendron
Rubber vine

Vines

Jimsonweed Some mushrooms
Rhubarb leaves

Other

List obtained online from:
www.babycenter.com (Martin N. Simenc)



Good seed choices for children to use include: radishes, carrots, bush beans, sunflowers, lettuce, spinach, and grass seed. Grow plants that thrive in small spaces, have short growing seasons, and require low maintenance.