

Fruit and vegetables and gardening

These ideas can be used for

- Cross-curricular topic work involving children's different languages
- Language classes in the community
- MFL classes

See also resources on powerpoint ([link](#))

Children in the Somali after-school class at a primary school sorted fruit and vegetables into those grown in Somalia and in England. Older children used a Venn diagram to represent these differences and overlaps, whilst younger children drew the items and named them in both languages. Year 1 children in the same primary school brought a fruit or vegetable from home to school, with an information sheet filled in by parents in different languages, and did observational drawings. Families from the Somali and Bengali after-school classes came together with children and parents from the Year 1 class for a joint gardening session, in which they planted vegetables together and talked about the activity in Somali, Bengali and English.

'Usually parents speak in Somali and children answer in English. So children recognise names of fruits and veg in Somali but don't use these words. The class activity helps children use and remember the words so they can communicate better with parents' (Somali teacher)

Resources

- Fruit and vegetables (play ones from nursery, real ones from home)
- Question sheet to take home – bring in a fruit/vegetable, give name, season in which grows, how you cook/eat it
- Game: words for fruit and veg in different languages (digitaldialects.com)
- Soil, plants and pots for rooftop gardening activity with parents
- Pictures of gardening activities with words for 'water', 'soil' etc in different languages (including transliteration for different scripts)

Lesson structure

- Sort fruit and vegetables into those grown in Somalia/England
- Use Venn diagram for those grown in Somalia, in England, or both
- Draw items and name them in different languages
- Take question sheet home and choose a fruit/vegetable, write answers with parents in home language/English
- Joint rooftop gardening session with parents/children from Somali and Bengali after-school classes and Year 1 class, to plant vegetables together and talk about the activity in Somali, Bengali and English

Aspects of learning

- Names of familiar food from home, in own language, friends' languages and English
- Cultural knowledge about what grows in different countries and England
- Finding out which foods grow in which environments and seasons
- Learning about plants and how they grow
- Talking about growing plants in English/other languages

Home-school links

- Interaction with parents/grandparents about food used/grown at home
- Shared gardening activity brought together families from different cultures