**Unit 1 Environmental Sustainability, Lesson 3**

**Janet Rabe**

**Grade Level:  Kindergarten**

**Focus:  How do we care for our plants?**

**Time:  20 minutes**

**Prep:**Have a watering can, trowels, and gloves ready to go. Have three pans of water for washing lettuce and paper towels for drying hands.

**Warm up:** whole class (5 min)

“Last time we planted our seeds in the ground.  What will our seed need to grow?” Today we are going out to observe our plants to see how they are doing.

Take a small group out to the garden.

**Lesson:** (15 min)

1.Go to the Kindergarten bed and make observations. “What do you see?” Plants should be growing. Weeds may also be growing.

2.  “How does the soil look by your plant?”  Let students water as needed.

3. “What about the weeds in our garden? Will they help our plant grow?  If they determine that the weed is not needed, demonstrate how to remove the weeds and let them do their part of the garden.

4.  Depending on how much time has gone by you may have some little lettuce leaves to taste.  Use the pans of water to do 3 washings. Then the lettuce is ready for the taste test.

**Debrief:** (5 min)

Have the group take a seat on the logs. “When we know how to plant and take care of seeds we can grow our own food. What did you think of the lettuce you tasted?”  Let students share.  “Food from our garden is fresh and delicious. You can plant seeds in a garden or a pot or on a windowsill. Lettuce will keep growing and if you are gentle you can pick off the leaves to eat and the plant will grow some more.”

Have students put gloves and trowels away and return to class to get next group.