

BEANS ON A TEPEE

Start at home and let the young ones be responsible for a few plants in a corner of the garden. Let them plant, water, weed and pick their vegetables and flowers. Keep the area small so it will be easy to manage. Encourage their success.

Duplicate an early American success story with a teepee. The American Indians gave us beans and corn. Often the Indians planted beans at the base of corn so as the beans grew, the plants could climb up the corn stalks. Find a sunny area of the garden. Take five branches, limbs, stakes or dowel rods about 8 feet long and tie together with string near one end. Spread the untied ends out to form a teepee. Divide the circle forming the base of the teepee in eight. Have five divisions containing stakes and nothing in the remaining three. This space will form the entrance to the teepee. At the base of each stake, plant three pole beans. As the plant grows, there will be a shady place for children to crawl under. Beans can be picked from the outside and the inside. A variation on this is to attach long strings from the ground to the garage eaves and continue this along the length of the wall. What forms will be a lean-to type dwelling.

Make a game of spotting how many different parts of plants we use as food. For example, *fruit* – cherries, *seed* – peas, *stem* – rhubarb, *flower buds* – broccoli or *roots* – carrots.

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