



## Gardening Set

### Developmental Stage:

Primarily ages 2 – 4 years old

### What Your Child Is Learning:

Children practice early science thinking as they explore how plants grow, while also strengthening hand muscles and learning new vocabulary related to nature and gardening.

### Why This Matters: School Readiness and Child Development

- Language: Children learn words such as plant, soil, water, grow, and roots.
- Cognitive: Children explore cause and effect by watering plants and observing changes.
- Social-Emotional: Caring for plants builds responsibility and nurturing behaviors.
- Motor: Digging, pouring, and planting strengthen fine motor coordination.

### During the Visit: Interaction Prompts

- Caregivers can ask, "Can you show me how you water the plant?"
- "What do you think plants need to grow?" or "What do you notice about the soil?"

### How Children of Different Ages May Engage:

Stage	Typical Ways Children Engage
Age 2	Enjoy digging, pouring soil, and naming simple objects like flower or water.
Age 3	Begin pretending to plant seeds and describing what they are doing.
Age 4	Talk about what plants need to grow and create simple gardens.

### Ideas for Families! Extend the Learning + Connection to Everyday Life:

- Water real plants together at home.
- Collect leaves or flowers during walks and talk about their colors and shapes.
- Use cups, spoons, and containers at home for indoor or outdoor planting activities.

#### Family Interaction Tips:

Follow your child's lead  
Notice and respond (serve and return)  
Ask, then pause