



A project of the Chicago Botanic Garden

BUDBURST FOR FAMILIES

Spending Time with Family and Plant Friends!

Title: Searching for Plant Prizes

Age Group: PreK/K and 1st – 4th Grade

Purpose:

- **Why?** Get outdoors and check out some of the parts of plants that can be easily observed
- **How?** Gather the family, a cloth or paper bag, a list of things to find, and lots of enthusiasm and cooperation to collect plant parts and various other items to sort later
- **What?** A Searching Game where the family works together to find as many items on a list as they can until they come to the final plant prize

Steps:

1. Make a list of 10 to 15 things children can easily find in the yard or use the sample included here. Sample Yard Search Sheet:
 - a. Find a flower on a plant and gently snip it and place in the bag
 - b. Look for a stem that has a leaf bud at the end of it -snip and put in bag
 - c. Look behind the tree that has an ancient animal hiding – add to bag
 - d. Find a plant with leaves larger than the youngest child's hand -add leaf to bag
 - e. Locate the upside-down flowerpot & find the toy there – put in bag
 - f. Is there a plant with a seed or seed pot on it? Add one to your bag
 - g. Wow! Do you see the red ribbon on a plant? Snip one of its leaves-add to bag
 - h. Look for a plant that could be a home for an animal – did you find the stuffed animal? Add it to your bag
 - i. Now for the Plant Prize: Discover it hiding in plain sight – under the water hose
2. Make the plant prize: Ants on a Log (celery stalks filled with almond butter and topped with raisins) and put in a lidded container.
3. Gather together a few items that are not plants (toy dinosaur, small ball, little stuffed animal, etc.) and place them in the spots described on the Yard Search Sheet. Also place the plant prize in one of the locations for the family to discover.
4. Make sure to have a pair of child-safe scissors handy to use when snipping off specific plant parts.
5. Gather the family and begin the search! You could add a time limit of 15 minutes to increase the excitement.
6. You can add your own ideas. For example, if there a pine tree, add a pinecone or needle.
7. After the family finds all of the items, take time to enjoy the Plant Prize together and when back inside do a sorting game with the items collected. Sort by plant part or not. For each plant part discuss what plant part it is and why a plant needs that part.

To learn more: <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/plants/life-cycle-plant/>